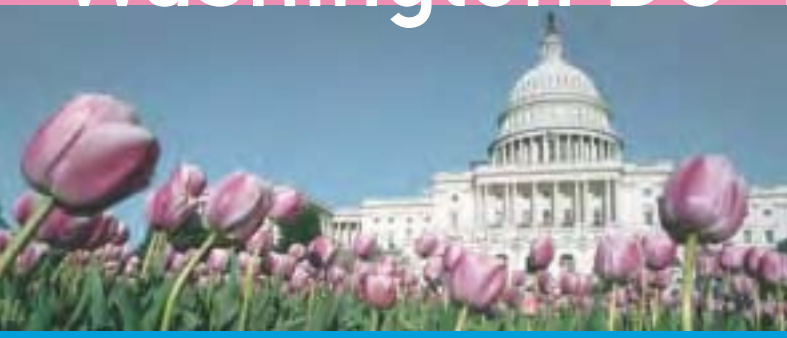
DIRECTIONS

Washington DC



Up-to-date DIRECTIONS

Inspired IDEAS

User-friendly MAPS

ACCURATE RELIABLE INFORMATIVE

VISIT…

EQUAL JUSTICE UNDER LAW

Washington DC

DIRECTIONS

WRITTEN AND RESEARCHED BY

JD Dickey and Jules Brown

ROUGH GUIDES

NEW YORK • LONDON • DELHI

www.roughguides.com

Tips for reading this e-book

Your e-book Reader has many options for viewing and navigating through an e-book. Explore the dropdown menus and toolbar at the top and the status bar at the bottom of the display window to familiarize yourself with these.

The following guidelines are provided to assist users who are not familiar with PDF files. For a complete user guide, see the Help menu of your Reader.

- You can read the pages in this e-book one at a time, or as two pages facing each other, as in a regular book. To select how you'd like to view the pages, click on the View menu on the top panel and choose the Single Page, Continuous, Facing or Continuous – Facing option.
- You can scroll through the pages or use the arrows at the top or bottom of the display window to turn pages. You can also type a page number into the status bar at the bottom and be taken directly there. Or else use the arrows or the PageUp and PageDown keys on your keyboard.
- You can view thumbnail images of all the pages by clicking on the Thumbnail tab on the left. Clicking on the thumbnail of a particular page will take you there.
- You can use the Zoom In and Zoom Out tools (magnifying glass) to magnify or reduce the print size: click on the tool, then enclose what you want to magnify or reduce in a rectangle. To move around the page use the Hand tool.
- To reset the page display size, click on one of the icons that looks like a paper sheet and try different page display sizes. This option is also available from the View menu.
- To search for a word in the document, click on the Find tool (binoculars) and type in the word you are looking for.
- Some versions of e-book Readers, might allow you to bookmark, highlight and underline text in your e-book and add notes or comments. Check the menu bar and tool icons to see if these options are available in your reader.

For more tips, check out Adobe's frequently asked questions for e-book users by clicking here.

Contents

Introduction 4

Ideas 9

The big six 10
Historical and cultural museums 12
Memorials and monuments 14
Parks and gardens 16
Power dining 18
Art museums and galleries 20
Shops and markets 22
African-American DC 24
Bars and pubs 26
Washington women 28
Religious DC 30
DC calendar 32
The music scene 34
The dark side of DC 36
Chic hotels 38
Government in action 40
Casual restaurants 42
Sports and outdoor activities 44
Hidden DC 46

Places 49

The National Mall 51
Capitol Hill 68
South of the Mall 79
The White House and Foggy Bottom 87
Old Downtown and Federal Triangle 100
New Downtown and Dupont Circle 116
Adams-Morgan, Shaw, and Outer Northeast 130
Upper Northwest 140
Georgetown 149
Arlington 158
Day-trips 165

Accommodation 175

Hotels 177
Bed and breakfasts 183
Hostels 184

Essentials 185

Arrival 187
City transportation 188
Information and maps 189
City tours 190
Phones, mail, and email 191
Festivals and holidays 192
Directory 193

Index 198

Colour maps

Washington DC: Metropolitan Area
The Metrorail System
Washington DC
Central Washington DC

Introduction to

Washington DC

Washington DC is a monumental city on a grand scale, filled with lovely Neoclassical buildings arrayed along triumphal boulevards, war memorials honoring centuries of fallen soldiers, some of the finest museums in North America, and scads of high-powered politicians, lobbyists, and bureaucrats charting the course of the country, as well as the world. You would hardly expect anything less from the nation's capital.

But that doesn't mean the city is unapproachable. Indeed, much of what you see is free; getting around is quite easy, aided by an efficient public transit system; and you'll eat and drink well too. A wide range of cuisines is on display, from inexpensive Ethiopian and gourmet Italian, to Nouveau American and good old steaks and burgers, and the odd pocket of lively, bohemian nightlife can be found as well.

The sights that everyone comes to see are primarily lined up along either side of the National Mall, including the Washington Monument, the National Gallery of Art, and many of the museums of the country's greatest cultural collection, the Smithsonian Institution. Just off this central showpiece, the gleaming white symbols of America's three branches of

▼ Columns, Union Station

When to visit

The best times to visit Washington DC are **spring** and **autumn**, when the weather is at its most appealing – with moderate temperatures, partly sunny skies, mild precipitation, and in April, cherry trees in bloom. By contrast, DC's hot and humid **summer** days are made even less hospitable by the throngs of visitors packed cheek-to-jowl at the major attractions, while **winter**, though less crowded, is equally unpleasant, with ice-cold temperatures and plenty of snow and rain.

▲ Jefferson Memorial

government – the White House, US Capitol, and Supreme Court – dominate the landscape; for some, the spectacle of so much power in such a small space can prove quite daunting. Fortunately, though, a living, breathing city exists beyond the institutional core.

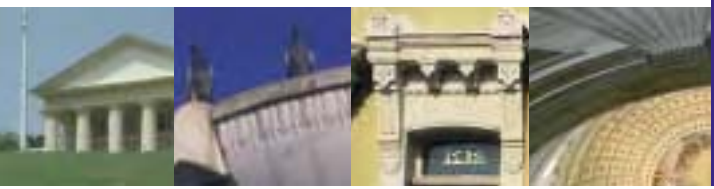
You'll have to leave that core anyway to find the best places to eat, drink, and sleep, but dipping into the eclectic array of neighborhoods provides other rewards. There's Dupont Circle, with its galleries, gay clubs and stately embassies; Georgetown and its nineteenth-century row houses and red-brick mansions; the Upper Northwest, home to the National Zoo and towering Washington National Cathedral; and the historic Old Town of Alexandria, Virginia. Even Downtown, which separates the federal center from the northerly

▼ Museum of the American Indian

neighborhoods, is not the barren zone it once was, boasting some stylish restaurants and niche museums in what's now called the Penn Quarter. Across the city, DC's Latin American and African-American communities offer their own rich culture in contrast to the sanitized federal version, adding to the vibrant mix outside the compact tourist center.

▲ Rowers under Key Bridge, Potomac River

Washington DC
AT A GLANCE



▲ The National Mall

The National Mall

An elegant, two-mile-long strip of greenery that's home to famous war and presidential memorials, Smithsonian museums, and a Reflecting Pool that serves as America's axis of political protest.

Capitol Hill

The country's political nerve center, crowned by the dome of the US Capitol and thick with congressional offices, heroic statues, and key institutions like the Supreme Court and Library of Congress.

▶ Rotunda, US Capitol

Federal Triangle

Where much of the day-to-day activity of the federal government takes place, in giant, Neoclassical structures that also house attractions like the National Archives and the Old Post Office – now a Romanesque Revival shopping arcade.

▲ Fountain, Dupont Circle

Dupont Circle

Perhaps the most renowned of DC's many traffic-circle parks, in the middle of a hip, energetic enclave full of fashionable boutiques, frenetic clubs, and Victorian-era mansions.

◀ Colorful Victorians, Georgetown

Adams-Morgan

Still off the beaten path for many tourists, a gentrifying neighborhood with a bohemian vibe, ethnic restaurants, and off-kilter shops offering everything from underground books to palm readings.

▶ 18th Street, Adams-Morgan

Georgetown

The oldest extant part of Washington, where you can tour DC's oldest house, gaze at early-American mansions, and take in some of the city's best dining and shopping.

▼ Eternal Flame, Arlington Cemetery

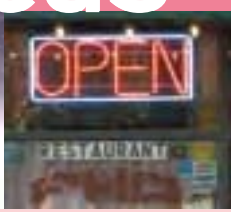
Arlington

Just west across the Potomac, this Virginia city is best known for its famous military cemetery, which features endless rows of white crosses and the poignant grave of JFK.

Old Town Alexandria

A well-preserved slice of early Americana along the Virginia waterfront, Old Town features cobblestone streets lined with renovated manor houses, old-fashioned taverns, and other historic treasures and curiosities.

Ideas



The big six

Washington's major attractions are familiar from postcards and the TV news, but when you actually get to DC, what's most striking is not their size, architecture, or symbolism, but just how cozy they all are – tidily arranged around the National Mall in a lineup of the greatest hits of American democracy. It's a circuit that's sure to be at the top of every visitor's list.

▼ The White House

The president's Neoclassical mansion is a compelling sight and can be visited on a tour or viewed from nearby Lafayette Square.

P.87 ▸ THE WHITE HOUSE AND FOGGY BOTTOM

▼ US Capitol

The home to Congress is an unquestioned architectural treasure, crowned by a huge cast-iron dome that's kept by law as the highest building in town.

P.68 ▸ CAPITOL HILL

▲ National Gallery

Enormous in scope, the museum possesses one of America's premier collections of Western art, housed in two completely different buildings, with a quirky modern sculpture garden set in between.

P.60 ▸ THE NATIONAL MALL

▼ Lincoln Memorial

At the best-loved and most dramatic of the city's presidential memorials, the white-marble statue of a solemn-looking Lincoln is surrounded by engraved renderings of his most famous speeches.

P.56 ▸ THE NATIONAL MALL

▲ Vietnam Veterans Memorial

This dramatic, black-granite chevron carved into the earth and flanked by a sculpture of three young servicemen is arguably the most affecting war memorial to be found anywhere.

P.57 ▸ THE NATIONAL MALL

▼ National Air and Space Museum

The most popular sight in Washington, this museum is an essential stop for anyone interested in historic airplanes and spacecraft – from the Wright Flyer to Apollo 11.

P.63 ▸ THE NATIONAL MALL

Historical and cultural museums

It goes without saying that the historical and cultural museums in Washington DC are among America's most prominent and best-loved institutions. Whether you're interested in spy gizmos right out of a James Bond movie, artifacts from native cultures, or old-fashioned trains and buggies, there's likely a museum that has them on display.

▼ National Building Museum

The former Pension Building is now a prominent architectural museum that's most famous for its colossal atrium – easily one of DC's greatest spaces.

P.107 ▸ OLD DOWNTOWN AND FEDERAL TRIANGLE

▼ US Holocaust Memorial Museum

Disturbingly unforgettable, this site provides a harrowing look at Nazi Germany's crimes against humanity, unveiled through vivid, unflinching multimedia displays.

P.79 ▸ SOUTH OF THE MALL

▲ National Museum of American History

Featuring Dorothy's ruby slippers, the actual Star-Spangled Banner, and other curiosities from nearly four centuries of national history, this museum is an entertaining celebration of Americana.

P.58 ▸ THE NATIONAL MALL

▼ City Museum of Washington DC

Set in the grand former city library, this institution showcases Washington's growth from a swampy backwater to a marble-and-granite showpiece.

P.108 ▸ OLD DOWNTOWN AND FEDERAL TRIANGLE

▲ Navy Museum

This favorite of nautical buffs resides in the Washington Navy Yard, where you can view historical displays and artifacts, such as a decommissioned destroyer floating out back.

P.83 ▸ SOUTH OF THE MALL

▼ International Spy Museum

This treasure trove of antiques and curiosities used for surveillance, subterfuge, and sedition pays loving tribute to the golden days of spying.

P.110 ▸ OLD DOWNTOWN AND FEDERAL TRIANGLE

Memorials and monuments

There seems to be a war memorial or presidential monument no matter where you turn in Washington. From the exalted to the obscure, countless historic figures are honored in statues, friezes, and emblems throughout the city, and new sculptural icons are dedicated every year. Although there are too many memorials and monuments to see in a brief visit, these – along with the Lincoln and the Vietnam Veterans memorials, detailed in "The big six" – constitute must-see viewing.

▼ FDR Memorial

The twentieth-century's greatest US president is honored with a series of outdoor rustic-stone galleries, adorned with stark Depression-era statues and war-related friezes.

P.54 ▸ THE NATIONAL MALL

▼ Grant Memorial

Stone lions guard the archly dramatic equestrian statue of the Civil War general and later president, poised atop a towering block of marble.

P.71 ▸ CAPITOL HILL

▲ Jefferson Memorial

A lovely, round, Neoclassical temple on the shore of the Tidal Basin, set in a grove of cherry trees, commemorates the third American president.

P.53 ▸ THE NATIONAL MALL

▶ Arlington National Cemetery

A myriad of white crosses (and some Stars of David) sit in perfect rows to mark the graves of nearly a quarter-million US soldiers at the nation's most famous military cemetery.

P.158 ▸ ARLINGTON

▼ National World War II Memorial

The newest entry on the Mall, the long-awaited cenotaph for the soldiers of World War II is a powerful reflection on duty and sacrifice.

P.54 ▸ THE NATIONAL MALL

Parks and gardens

As a complement to the grand boulevards and towering monuments, Washington has been laid out with an excellent array of parks, gardens, and public squares. The range of activities found in these spaces is also impressive, whether you're decamping on the magnificent National Mall, examining meticulous displays of horticulture, or hopping from one civic plaza to the next, each overseen by a commanding statue of a famous politician or Revolutionary or Civil War hero.

▲ Rock Creek Park

Set along a forest and gorge, the park offers rugged trails for hiking, winding paths for cycling and rollerblading, and nineteenth-century oddments like a functional gristmill.

P.145 ▸ UPPER NORTHWEST

▲ The National Mall

Washington's centerpiece, this two-mile-long concourse of water and greenery is the site of many of DC's great museums and memorials, as well as the massive protest marches that descend upon the city.

P.51 ▸ THE NATIONAL MALL

▼ National Arboretum

Marvelous displays of azaleas and bonsai, as well as an incongruous group of sandstone columns that once supported the US Capitol, make this out-of-the-way gem worth seeking out.

P.135 ▸ ADAMS-MORGAN, SHAW, AND OUTER NORTHEAST

▼ Lafayette Square

The finest of DC's many public squares is the site of dashing statues, like that of Andrew Jackson, and a pleasant spot to stretch out on the grass and gaze at the White House.

P.91 ▸ THE WHITE HOUSE AND FOGGY BOTTOM

▲ US Botanic Garden

See thousands of plants in different climate-controlled settings, highlighted by the dense greenery of the Jungle Room.

P.72 ▸ CAPITOL HILL

▲ C&O Canal

The 184-mile-long historic canal, once a key commercial artery, echoes its past with quaint bridges, preserved old buildings, and mule-drawn boat rides.

P.150 ▸ GEORGETOWN

Power dining

There's little doubt that DC is one of the nation's prime spots for power dining. In select restaurants, backroom promises are made over a slice of filet mignon, lobbyists make their cases to pals on Capitol Hill, and mere plebs can gaze at obscure politicians as if they were Hollywood stars. The "in" spots of the moment tend to vary by party and administration, but these places are always good for a thrill – and a high-priced bill.

▼ The Palm

The Washington branch of the New York steakhouse serves up prime cuts of beef and delicious lobster and draws politicians and celebrities who want to be seen being seen.

P.127 ▸ NEW DOWNTOWN AND DUPONT CIRCLE

▲ Citronelle

This huge new player on the dining circuit presents artful French cooking with a California Cuisine twist, and caters to well-heeled honchos in Georgetown.

P.156 ▸ GEORGETOWN

▲ Old Ebbitt Grill

A DC fixture for nearly 150 years, with a plush mahogany-and-leather ambience; it's a great place for steak, oysters, and even burgers, and you can't help but run into some politico or other.

P.113 ▸ OLD DOWNTOWN AND FEDERAL TRIANGLE

▼ Café Promenade

Tucked in the grand *Mayflower* hotel, offering the pinnacle of power-breakfasts and lunches to practically anyone cutting deals at the nearby White House.

P.127 ▸ NEW DOWNTOWN AND DUPONT CIRCLE

▼ The Monocle

A well-known spot for Congressional aides and their bosses to plot strategy while dining on tasty steaks and crab cakes amid stylish decor.

P.77 ▸ CAPITOL HILL

Art museums and galleries

With the National Gallery in town, many visitors get their fill of High Art and overlook some of the city's other standout venues for painting, sculpture, and photography. Indeed, Washington has art that caters to every taste, not just those with a yen for eighteenth-century presidential portraits, and offers a broad range of works, from Ming Dynasty China to the Peruvian Andes to postwar New York.

▲ Renwick Gallery

With the Smithsonian American Art Museum closed until 2006, this handsome Victorian mansion displays many of its holdings in a colossal Grand Salon, where the towering walls feature paintings stacked four and five high.

P.93 ▸ THE WHITE HOUSE AND FOGGY BOTTOM

▲ National Museum of Asian Art

Spread through two Smithsonian galleries – the Freer and the Sackler – are displays of Japanese, Chinese, and Southeast Asian art, with a few rooms devoted to painter James Whistler.

P.66 ▸ THE NATIONAL MALL

▼ Hirshhorn Museum

This giant concrete drum on the National Mall is a storehouse of modernist treasures, especially good for its Abstract Expressionism and Pop Art.

P.64 ▸ THE NATIONAL MALL

▼ Corcoran Gallery of Art

The city's oldest art institution is a noteworthy spot for America-style Impressionism, but best for grand canvases by the likes of Thomas Cole and Albert Bierstadt.

P.93 ▸ THE WHITE HOUSE AND FOGGY BOTTOM

▲ Textile Museum

Kente-cloth from Ghana, colorful ponchos from Chile, mudcloth from Mali, and postmodern tapestries from America are among the fascinating garments and textiles to examine here.

P.125 ▸ NEW DOWNTOWN AND DUPONT CIRCLE

▲ Phillips Collection

One of the city's favorite showpieces for American work by artists such as Milton Avery, Philip Guston, and Mark Rothko.

P.123 ▸ NEW DOWNTOWN AND DUPONT CIRCLE

Shops and markets

Washington may not rank high on the list of US cities for shopping, and it certainly has no retail corridor rivaling New York's Fifth Avenue or LA's Rodeo Drive. It does, however, sport an appealing range of fun and funky bohemian zones where you can pick up vintage clothing and used vinyl, stylish and trendy spots for the latest fashions, and a number of prime areas for gourmet food and wine.

▼ Eastern Market

Delis, butchers, seafood sellers, and weekend antique stalls mix in and around a historic red-brick building that's been here for 130 years.

P.75 ▸ CAPITOL HILL

▲ Connecticut Avenue NW

A smart and swanky strip for upscale clothing and gourmet eats that is at its most relaxed and appealing around Dupont Circle.

P.117 ▸ NEW DOWNTOWN AND DUPONT CIRCLE

▲ go mama go!

Eighteenth Street in Adams-Morgan holds most of the area's funky shops, but this entry a few blocks east is the colorful equal of anything on that strip.

P.125 ▸ NEW DOWNTOWN AND DUPONT CIRCLE

▼ Washington Fish Wharf

Throngs of fishmongers hawk the likes of bass, mackerel, perch, lobster, and, of course, crab at this longstanding waterfront favorite.

P.82 ▸ SOUTH OF THE MALL

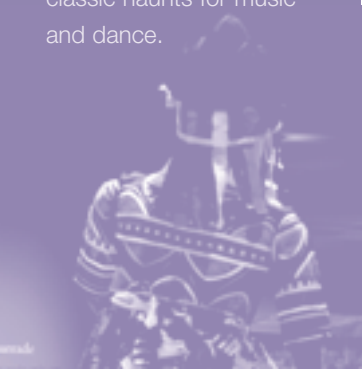
▼ M Street and Wisconsin Avenue NW

Shops nest in historic nineteenth-century digs along two busy retail corridors in Georgetown, the former home to a chic selection of national chains, the latter to some of DC's best independent boutiques.

P.149 & P.152 ▸ GEORGETOWN

African-American DC

DC has had a significant African-American presence since the nineteenth-century, when thousands of newly freed slaves migrated from the South, and – away from the corridors of power – has been a predominantly black city since the 1930s. The first US institution of higher learning to enroll African-Americans can be found here, alongside sights encompassing the legacy of statesman Frederick Douglass, the art and artifacts of Africa, and classic haunts for music and dance.



▼ Frederick Douglass National Historic Site

The preserved Victorian residence where the civil-rights pioneer lived in his 60s and 70s displays key mementos from his life and artifacts like Abe Lincoln's cane.

P.84 ▸ SOUTH OF THE MALL

▼ Howard University

Founded just after the Civil War and boasting numerous famous graduates, this premier black college is also worth a look for its striking 1930s buildings.

P.133 ▸ ADAMS-MORGAN, SHAW, AND OUTER NORTHEAST

▲ Bohemian Caverns

Hear traditional jazz as well as more adventurous, modern stylings at the latest incarnation of this legendary supper club and jazz hotspot.

P.138 ▸ ADAMS-MORGAN, SHAW, AND OUTER NORTHEAST

▼ National Museum of African Art

One of the best museums on the National Mall, featuring sculptures from ancient Benin, carved icons from the Gold Coast, and modern art from across the continent.

P.65 ▸ THE NATIONAL MALL

▲ Anacostia Museum

The least known of DC's Smithsonian museums, this storehouse of African-American history and culture showcases folk-art quilts, historic photographs, and influential speeches and documents.

P.85 ▸ SOUTH OF THE MALL

Bars and pubs

A trip to Washington wouldn't be complete without sampling its high-powered bars, funky watering holes, and Irish-style pubs. Along with these old favorites – attracting everyone from three-martini-lunching attorneys to hipsters in black leather – DC's bars also drink in the recent rage for microbreweries, giving you the chance to enjoy handcrafted ales, stouts, and porters, and in some cases even watch the beer being made.

▲ The Brickskeller

This brick-walled basement saloon famously claims to serve "the world's largest selection of beer," some eight hundred brews from around the world.

P.128 ▸ NEW DOWNTOWN AND DUPONT CIRCLE

▼ Capitol City Brewing Company

Shiny copper vats set the tone at this popular microbrewery, which helped establish DC as a place for more than mere corporate-brand chugging.

P.78 ▸ CAPITOL HILL

▼ J. Paul's

This stylish "American Dining Saloon" dishes up a mean crab cake and pours its own homebrewed beers, the highlight of which is its renowned 1889 Amber Ale.

P.156 ▸ GEORGETOWN

▲ Hawk 'n' Dove

Cheap beer and food, along with Redskins football, bring regulars into this longstanding favorite.

P.78 ▸ CAPITOL HILL

▲ Murphy's Grand Irish Pub

A fine Old Town fixture in which to knock back a foaming pint of Guinness and soak up the sounds of brogue-sporting musicians belting out Irish drinking songs.

P.173 ▸ DAY-TRIPS

Washington women

Although the White House still awaits the first female president, extraordinary women have left their mark on Washington since its earliest days: civil rights advocates protesting for social justice, senators and congresswomen representing their constituencies on Capitol Hill, and First Ladies and dowagers who have contributed significantly to DC's cultural life. Fittingly, the capital is home to a number of memorials and museums honoring those women who have served their country either at home or abroad.

▼ Bethune Council House

Once the home and headquarters of one of DC's most prominent African-American women, this restored Victorian is now preserved to honor her legacy.

P.120 ▸ NEW DOWNTOWN AND DUPONT CIRCLE

▼ Daughters of the American Revolution Museum

The Daughters of the American Revolution have devoted a century to collecting historic memorabilia, from toys and books to quilts and pottery, and proudly display the cache in their museum and period salon rooms.

P.95 ▸ THE WHITE HOUSE AND FOGGY BOTTOM

▲ Vietnam Women's Memorial

A short distance from the larger Vietnam memorial, this simple bronze grouping of three battle-tested nurses, set in a sylvan grove, pays tribute to the 11,000 women who served in that war.

P.58 ▸ THE NATIONAL MALL

▲ Sewall-Belmont House

One of the city's oldest private residences, this "living monument" to Equal Rights Amendment author Alice Paul houses a museum dedicated to the women's rights movement and leaders such as Paul and Susan B. Anthony.

P.74 ▸ CAPITOL HILL

▼ National Museum of Women in the Arts

This Smithsonian outpost displays works by famous and lesser-known women painters, photographers, and sculptors from the Renaissance to the present.

P.111 ▸ OLD DOWNTOWN AND FEDERAL TRIANGLE

30

Religious DC

Although officially separated by American law, religion and politics make convenient bedfellows in Washington society, and most modern politicians can scarcely get elected without dropping in on an evangelical prayer breakfast or appearing regularly at a famous cathedral. For all this self-conscious mixing of God and country, there are plenty of truly inspiring spots that present an evocative glimpse of the divine.

▲ Washington National Cathedral

The sixth-biggest cathedral in the world took eight decades to construct, its stunning limestone structure complete with flying buttresses, vaults, stained glass, and gargoyles.

P.143 ▸ UPPER NORTHWEST

▼ National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

Simply put, the biggest Catholic shrine in the US and a towering monument to Christian faith; it really has to be seen to be believed.

P.134 ▸ ADAMS-MORGAN, SHAW, AND OUTER NORTHEAST

▼ St John's Church

This quaint yellow structure with a tasteful dome and Greek Cross layout has been hosting presidents since 1816 and reserves a special pew for them.

P.92 ▸ THE WHITE HOUSE AND FOGGY BOTTOM

▲ Metropolitan AME Church

This massive red-brick, Gothic Revival church saw the funeral of statesman Frederick Douglass in 1895, a decade after it was completed.

P.119 ▸ NEW DOWNTOWN AND DUPONT CIRCLE

▲ St Matthew's Cathedral

JFK's 1963 funeral Mass was held at this grandly inspiring and wonderfully built church, where many prominent Catholic politicians go to take Communion.

P.116 ▸ NEW DOWNTOWN AND DUPONT CIRCLE

DC calendar

As it should be in a national capital, Washington offers so many festivals and events throughout the year that it can be difficult to keep track of them, let alone pick the best and most deserving ones to attend. With its mix of cultures and peoples from around the world, DC hosts many fine ethnic festivals of food, music, and drink, alongside spirited celebrations of events from American history and lore. Those listed here are but a few of the many highlights.

▼ Independence Day

Appropriately enough, DC is the place to be if you're going to be anywhere on the Fourth of July, with a spirited parade along Constitution Avenue NW, free music and concerts, and, of course, a grand display of fireworks.

P.192 ▸ ESSENTIALS

▼ George Washington's Birthday

The district's namesake is celebrated with commemorative events and upbeat concerts at his Mount Vernon home, as well as a spectacular parade and other events just up the road in Alexandria, Virginia.

P.192 ▸ ESSENTIALS

▲ Smithsonian Festival of American Folklife

One of the country's biggest festivals rolls into town in early summer, with American music, crafts, food, and folk heritage events on the Mall.

P.192 ▸ ESSENTIALS

▼ Easter Egg Roll

Toddlers descend upon the White House in droves to toss eggs in this annual race, held on the South Lawn.

P.192 ▸ ESSENTIALS

The music scene

Finding a swinging club or live-music joint in Washington is the exact opposite of finding a good museum – go where the tourists aren't. The best spots to hear hard-driving indie rock, old-school funk, or top blues acts are well away from the Mall, in places like Dupont Circle, Adams-Morgan, and Shaw's U Street corridor; meanwhile, in Foggy Bottom, you can enjoy an uplifting DC music institution, at a gallery no less, if you're in on a weekend.

▼ Gospel Brunch

Passionate odes to Jesus and plenty of good food make this signature event at the Corcoran Gallery's *Café des Artistes* worth waking up for on Sundays.

P.98 ▸ THE WHITE HOUSE AND FOGGY BOTTOM

▲ IOTA Club and Café

Head across the Potomac to this warehouse-style club for indie-rock, blues, and folk acts as well as bistro-style food and a drink at the great bar.

P.163 ▸ ARLINGTON

▲ Blues Alley

This thirty-year stalwart on the blues scene draws some of the bigger names in the field – but reserve ahead, as the pricey tickets can sell out quickly.

P.157 ▸ GEORGETOWN

▼ The Black Cat

Catch the latest tunes from alternative bands at this gritty Logan Circle institution, owned by Dave Grohl of Nirvana and Foo Fighters fame.

P.129 ▸ NEW DOWNTOWN AND DUPONT CIRCLE

▼ Habana Village

This neighborhood favorite draws throngs of Latin music-lovers to dance to frenetic salsa, tango, and merengue beats – and if you don't know the steps, you can always take lessons.

P.138 ▸ ADAMS-MORGAN, SHAW, AND OUTER NORTHEAST

The dark side of DC

Needless to say, Washington DC isn't all about celebrating democracy and showcasing fancy museums and monuments. The city also has a disturbing dark side linked to political scandal, historic injustice, and shocking violence. Aside from sites like the US Capitol being partly built with the aid of slave labor, other attractions have their own checkered pasts, legacies that may not be advertised in their pamphlets but nonetheless color their history.

▲ Ford's Theatre

The theater where Abraham Lincoln was gunned down by Confederate assassin John Wilkes Booth remains the most notorious of any American theater.

P.110 ▸ OLD DOWNTOWN AND FEDERAL TRIANGLE

▼ Old Executive Office Building

Along with being a garish monstrosity, this Washington landmark was the job site for all manner of White House schemers, from Watergate-era crooks to Iran-Contra document-shredders.

P.92 ▸ THE WHITE HOUSE AND FOGGY BOTTOM

▲ Carlyle House

Although a Colonial jewel, the onetime residence of a plantation-owner and slave-trader who lived in splendor while his servants toiled in dirt is also an icon of early American injustice.

P.166 ▸ DAY-TRIPS

▼ The Watergate

The residential and commercial complex whose name lives in infamy as a synonym for political dirty tricks first saw the illegal entry of Richard Nixon's "plumbers" and later housed Clinton intern and mistress Monica Lewinsky.

P.96 ▸ THE WHITE HOUSE AND FOGGY BOTTOM

Chic hotels

Every day Washington hosts legions of visitors from around the nation and world, all of whom need to decamp somewhere for the night. Of DC's most chic and stylish hotels, there are a handful that really stand out for their verve, design, and amenities – places where you can guzzle a martini in a posh cocktail bar or peer out at the White House from the balcony of your room.

▼ Hay-Adams

This early twentieth-century charmer features one of the city's best views – directly across from the White House on Lafayette Square.

P.180 ▸ ACCOMMODATION

▼ Willard

Monumentally grand hotel that has been a Washington landmark for 150 years.

P.182 ▸ ACCOMMODATION

▲ Hotel Monaco

A Greek Revival masterpiece dating to the 1840s, Washington's first-ever marble building, created by renowned architect Robert Mills, is now home to a stylish, modern hotel.

P.182 ▸ ACCOMMODATION

▲ St Regis

A luxury hotel with an impressive pedigree – Calvin Coolidge dedicated it in the 1920s, and it's been beguiling visitors with its Renaissance-styled splendor ever since.

P.181 ▸ ACCOMMODATION

▼ Mayflower

If there's such a thing as a power-hotel, this is it – one of the nation's most famous draws for foreign leaders and political bigwigs, with an opulent lobby and elegant suites.

P.181 ▸ ACCOMMODATION

▼ Hotel Rouge

Visiting hipsters descend on this Dupont Circle hotel for its dramatically moody lounge and red-infused rooms decorated with quirky art and photography.

P.181 ▸ ACCOMMODATION

Government in action

The heavy wheels of bureaucracy grind their way across much of the city, from the waterfront to Foggy Bottom. Although the vast corridors of office buildings bordering the National Mall usually offer little attraction for visitors, several government sites can actually be quite enjoyable to witness firsthand – though the real decisions, of course, are made well away from prying eyes.

▲ Library of Congress

The world's most voluminous library draws researchers as well as visitors eager to see the opulent interior spaces and artifacts on display, from ancient 78 rpm records to famous, hand-scrawled speeches.

P.73 ▸ CAPITOL HILL

▼ Supreme Court

The nation's ultimate arbiter of legal disputes, civil and criminal, is housed in a monumental 1930s Neoclassical building that's regularly open to the public.

P.72 ▸ CAPITOL HILL

▲ Bureau of Engraving and Printing

The avaricious thrill of being so tantalizingly close to so much money draws the crowds to this tourist favorite, where more than $300 million in US currency is minted every day.

P.81 ▸ SOUTH OF THE MALL

▲ National Archives

One of the visual glories of Washington, this site holds the Holy Trinity of the US government: the Declaration of Independence, Constitution, and Bill of Rights.

P.103 ▸ OLD DOWNTOWN AND FEDERAL TRIANGLE

▼ Embassy Row

Many of the world's countries have established their official US presence in grand, century-old mansions, like that of Indonesia, sprinkled throughout Dupont Circle and Kalorama.

P.122 ▸ NEW DOWNTOWN AND DUPONT CIRCLE

Casual eateries

Although Washington is perhaps best-known for its fancy, high-powered restaurants, the city also dishes up a solid set of inexpensive cafés, diners, and casual eateries where you can grab a morning snack before hitting the museum scene, chow down on local favorites from chili half smokes to crispy chicken, and sample good ethnic cuisine without breaking the bank.

▼ Firehook Bakery

Breads, cakes, cookies, and excellent coffee are all on offer at DC's favorite coffeeshop.

P.146 ▸ UPPER NORTHWEST

▼ Clyde's

This saloon-restaurant features checked tablecloths, Art Deco lampshades, and a burnished wood interior to accompany its American bistro fare – a prime lunch and brunch spot.

P.156 ▸ GEORGETOWN

▲ Ben's Chili Bowl

U Street's classic haunt still doles out the city's best chili half smokes – DC's inspired take on the humble hot dog – cheese fries, and shakes.

P.136 ▸ ADAMS-MORGAN, SHAW, AND OUTER NORTHEAST

▼ Queen Bee

You'll have to head to Virginia for the area's best Vietnamese, but this restaurant's renowned spring rolls, grilled shrimp and pork, and steaming bowls of noodle soup are well worth the trip.

P.163 ▸ ARLINGTON

Sports and outdoor activities

It may seem most passionate about its politics, but Washington can be a pretty rabid sports town, too, and not just for big-league spectator sports. Indeed, the city is just as devoted to outdoor pursuits, and, as one of America's greenest cities, DC has a fine selection of parks where you can get your heart pumping.

▼ Cruise the Potomac

This winding watercourse hosts a broad range of waterborne activities, including windsurfing south of Alexandria, white-water kayaking north of town around Great Falls, and canoeing and rowing – with rentals available in Georgetown.

P.151 ▸ GEORGETOWN

▼ Biking the C&O Canal

The old tow-path for mule-drawn canal boats provides a prime stretch for pedaling along the fetching, 184-mile historic waterway.

P.150 ▸ GEORGETOWN

▲ Jogging along the Mall

The Mall's imperial buildings and monuments provide an inspiring backdrop for a daily workout – and the gravel path around the city's mammoth front lawn is kind on the knees.

P.51 ▸ THE NATIONAL MALL

▲ Rollerblading on Beach Drive

This forested six-mile strip through Rock Creek Park serves as a training and cruising ground for in-line skaters of all kinds, and rewards a visit for its gently hilly contours.

P.145 ▸ UPPER NORTHWEST

▼ A game at the MCI Center

If hockey or hoops is your thing, head to DC's downtown sports complex and catch the Capitals, Wizards, or Mystics in action.

P.108 ▸ OLD DOWNTOWN AND FEDERAL TRIANGLE

▼ Hiking on Roosevelt Island

Take an enchanting trip on foot along the trails of this island nature-park, which sits halfway between Washington and Arlington in the Potomac but feels much further away.

P.161 ▸ ARLINGTON

Hidden DC

Although the Washington area's major sights are often readily accessible on mass transit, a handful of fascinating spots take a bit more effort to reach. If you've got the time and inclination, these four spots – from a little-known museum set in the hills northwest of Georgetown to a renowned Virginia concert space devoted to American music in all its native forms – handsomely reward the effort required to seek them out.

▲ Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens

Perhaps the most obscure national park in the district, this unfairly overlooked twelve-acre marvel of aquaculture features graceful water lilies and beautiful lotuses.

P.135 ▸ ADAMS-MORGAN, SHAW, AND OUTER NORTHEAST

▼ Takoma Park

Architecture buffs should head to the DC–Maryland border for its well-preserved Victorian homes, from Colonial Revival mansions to Craftsman bungalows to Queen Anne cottages.

P.134 ▸ ADAMS-MORGAN, SHAW, AND OUTER NORTHEAST

▲ Kreeger Museum

Set in a stylish building designed by modernist Philip Johnson, this storehouse of art from the late nineteenth to mid-twentieth century holds key works by the likes of Picasso, Beckmann, and Kandinsky.

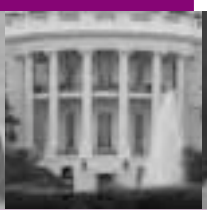
P.153 ▸ GEORGETOWN

▼ Barns at Wolf Trap

Near West Falls Church, VA, this concert venue, consisting of several evocative stages in two restored eighteenth-century barns, is one of the area's premier showcases for folk, blues, and country music.

P.174 ▸ DAY-TRIPS

Places



The National Mall

Laid out along two miles between the US Capitol and the Potomac River is nothing less than the cultural and political axis of the country, the National Mall. Long serving as a choice venue for protest movements of every stripe, it's also the prime target for nearly every visitor to DC. The showpiece expanse is dotted with big-ticket attractions, including nine Smithsonian museums, the National Gallery of Art, and several of the city's most famous monuments and memorials, among them stirring tributes to Lincoln, Jefferson, Washington, and the fallen soldiers of the Vietnam War. Flanked by memorials on the western half of the Mall is the iconic Reflecting Pool, a gleaming body of water that was supposedly inspired by the pools and canals at Versailles and the landscaping at the Taj Mahal.

Washington Monument

15th St NW at Constitution Ave ⓣ1-800/967-2283, ⓦwww.nps.gov/wamo. Daily 9am–5pm. This unadorned marble obelisk, built in memory of the first US president, is simple, elegant, majestic, and huge: immediately recognizable from all over the city, it provides the Mall and the capital with an unmistakable icon. Like seemingly everything else in town, though, the monument is getting revamped for security, which in this case means the grounds have been blocked off for re-landscaping. You can still visit by queuing up for free tickets at a kiosk (daily 8am–4.30pm) on 15th Street; these can run out early in the day, so plan accordingly or call the above number to reserve in advance ($2 charge).

The monument is the tallest all-masonry structure on the planet, 55ft wide at the base, tapering to 34ft at the top, and capped by a small aluminum pyramid. The elevator up takes seventy seconds and deposits you at the 500-foot level, from

▼WASHINGTON MONUMENT

Free admission

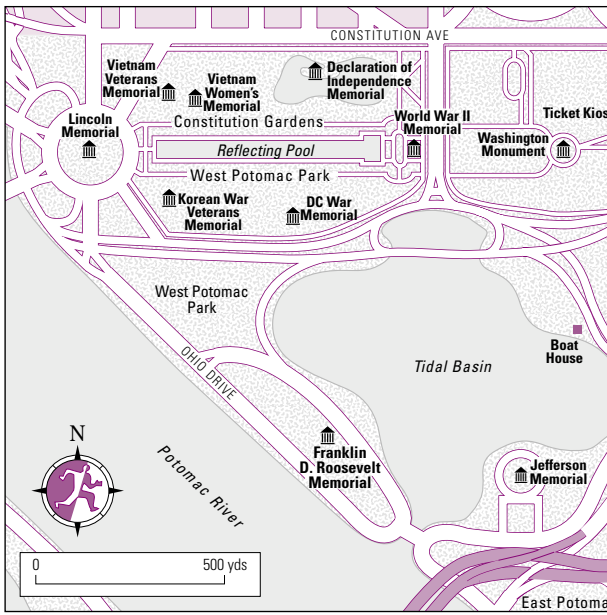
Unless otherwise noted, every memorial, monument, and museum in this chapter has no charge for admission.

where the views are tremendous, glimpsed through narrow windows on all four sides.

It took quite some effort for the monument even to be built, despite the ardor that Washington, as America's Revolutionary War general and first president, rightfully inspired. When the cornerstone was finally laid on July 4, 1848, it was on a bare knoll 360ft east and 120ft south of the true intersection – which explains why the monument looks off-center on the map. By 1853, when funds ran out, the monument was just 152ft high and stayed that way for almost 25 years. Even today, you may notice a slight discoloration between the off-white shades of marble that separate the lower third and the upper two-thirds – testament to the break in construction work and change in marble types that were used over the years.

The Tidal Basin

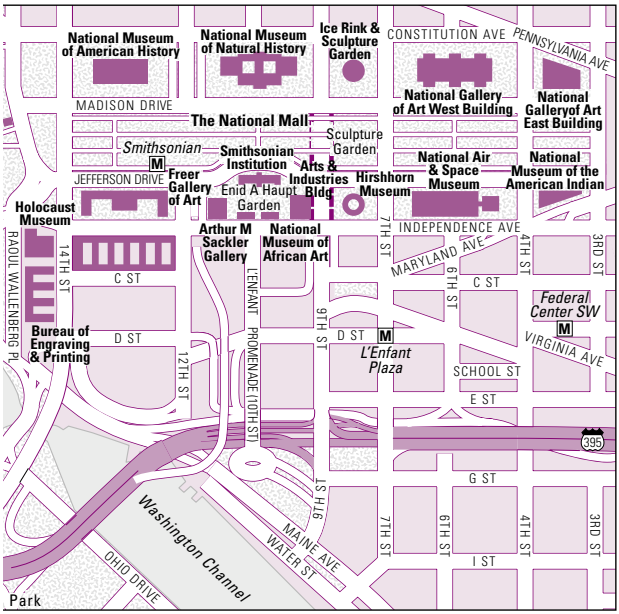
West Potomac Park, between Maryland and Independence aves. The Tidal Basin occupies much of the space between the Lincoln and Jefferson memorials. This large inlet, formerly part of the Potomac River, was created in 1882 to prevent flooding and is best known for its famous cherry trees – a gift from Japan – which were planted around the edge in 1912. The National Cherry Blossom Festival is held each spring in early April to celebrate the trees' blooming with concerts, parades, and displays of Japanese lanterns. To take it all in from the water, you can rent a pedal boat from the Tidal Basin Boat House, 1501 Maine Ave SW (March–Sept Mon–Fri 10am–6pm & Sat–Sun 10am–7pm; two-seaters $8/hr, four-seaters $16/hr; ⓣ202/484-0206) – a real treat



for children and a great way to experience waterside views of several famous monuments and memorials. Also worth your time is a stroll around the perimeter of the basin, where the striking landscape of trees and flowers is at its most picturesque in the springtime, with the Neoclassical buildings in the distance as a nicely evocative touch.

Jefferson Memorial

Southeast bank of the Tidal Basin near 15th St SW and Ohio Drive ☎202/426-6841, ⓦwww.nps.gov/thje. Daily 8am–midnight. Given that Thomas Jefferson was a man of countless accomplishments – third president of the United States, prime author of the Declaration of Independence, inveterate architect and inventor, and agent of the Louisiana Purchase and Lewis & Clark Expedition – it took a very long time for his monument to arrive. When the Jefferson Memorial was finally completed in 1943, some 150 years after his presidency, it was greeted with protestors complaining of the loss of cherry trees, Tidal Basin views, and other seemingly important issues. Such complaints have long been forgotten, and this circular, colonnaded edifice stands as one of Washington DC's most visually memorable buildings, its shallow dome housing a nineteen-foot-high bronze statue of Jefferson and lined with several of his signature quotations. The memorial's style was influenced by the Neoclassical styles Jefferson had helped popularize in the United States after his stint as ambassador to France in the 1780s, and also closely echoes the character of Jefferson's self-designed



country estate at Monticello, in Charlottesville, Virginia.

As most visitors discover when they enter through the building's grand marble columns, this is one of the most harmonious structures in the city – a white marble temple, reminiscent of the Pantheon, with steps down to the water's edge and framed by the cherry trees of the Tidal Basin. The standing bronze statue of Jefferson (by Rudulph Evans) gazes determinedly outward, while the inscription around the frieze sets the high moral tone, trumpeting "I have sworn upon the altar of God eternal hostility against every form of tyranny over the mind of man." Inside, on the walls, four more texts flank the statue, most notably the seminal words from the 1776 Declaration of Independence – the original copy of which can be viewed under glass at the National Archives (see p.103).

FDR Memorial

Southwest bank of the Tidal Basin ☎202/426-6841, ⓦwww.nps.gov/fdrm. Daily 24hr, staffed 8am–midnight.

DC's most recently constructed presidential memorial honors Franklin Delano Roosevelt, "FDR," the 32nd chief executive in American history and widely considered to be the third-best US president behind Lincoln and Washington. As architect of the New Deal and wartime leader, Roosevelt's underlying political spirit is captured in a series of carved quotations that define the twelve years of his presidency, perhaps most famously "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself." Dedicated in 1997, the memorial spreads across a seven-acre site on the banks of the Tidal Basin and is made up of a series of granite outdoor galleries punctuated by waterfalls, statuary, sculpted reliefs, groves of trees, shaded alcoves, and plazas. It's among the most successful of DC's memorials, with an almost Athenian quality to its open spaces, resting-places and benches, and texts. On a bright spring or fall day, with the glistening basin waters and emerging views of the Washington Monument and Jefferson Memorial, it's also one of the finest places in the city for a contemplative stroll.

The four galleries of rustic stone represent each of FDR's terms of office, though he only served a few months of his final term before he died. Although the memorial's layout was designed by noted architect Lawrence Halprin, its most compelling artworks were created by George Segal; these are the focus of the second gallery, where sculpted figures show the Great Depression of the 1930s in all its bleakness – a farm couple stand in a Dust Bowl doorway, broken men wait in a city breadline, and an elderly man listens to one of Roosevelt's famous radio fireside chats. In the third room a tangle of broken granite blocks represents the war years, alongside a seated statue of FDR and his beloved dog Fala. The memorial ends in the fourth gallery with a timeline of dates and events inscribed in the steps and a recognition of Roosevelt's redoubtable wife Eleanor, a staunch civil rights advocate and ambassador to the United Nations.

National World War II Memorial

17th St SW at Independence Ave ☎202/426-6841, ⓦwww.nps.gov/nwwm. Daily 24hr, staffed 8am–midnight.

The National World War II Memorial opened on Memorial Day 2004 to much acclaim – and

great relief. Although some were concerned that the memorial might disrupt the scenic views down the Mall or become an overblown statement of victory, neither fear was realized, and it stands as a thoroughly moving statement of duty and sacrifice, its power and presence as a war monument second only to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial (see p.57).

The site roughly occupies the former footprint of the Mall's Rainbow Pool on the western edge of the Washington Monument, with the Lincoln Memorial reflected in the distance further west. On each side of a central fountain, the memorial features two arcs consisting of 56 stone pillars – representing US states and territories at the time of the war – which are decorated with bronze wreaths. In the middle of each arc, directly across from each other, stand two short towers titled "Atlantic" and "Pacific" to represent the two theaters of war, and within each are four interlinked bronze eagles. The dramatic birds are a statement of victory and are hardly the arrogant symbols that critics feared, but are tempered by the sizable towers and a pair of sculpted wreaths, which despite their bulk seem to float above you in mid-air.

Beyond the carefully considered architecture and the chiseled quotations on the walls by the likes of FDR and Dwight Eisenhower, the memorial really succeeds as a public space in full view of the Mall's most important sites. With its stone benches and terraces, the site is appropriately evocative and contemplative, especially considering the concave wall of four thousand golden stars nearby. Each symbol represents one hundred US military deaths in the war, making for a total of 400,000 fallen soldiers – surpassed only by the colossal carnage of the Civil War.

DC War Memorial

Perhaps the Mall's most overlooked monument is the DC War Memorial, hidden in a grove of trees just north of Independence Avenue, a bit west of the World War II Memorial. This one is much more of a humble edifice, basically a small, circular Neoclassical temple built to commemorate local soldiers who fought in "The Great War." Usually free from tourists or any visitors

▼DC WAR MEMORIAL

▲LINCOLN MEMORIAL

whatsoever, it offers a quiet and relaxing respite from the hubbub of the Mall, a place to take a break before you wade once more into the throngs of visitors.

Korean War Veterans Memorial

West Potomac Park, southeast of the Lincoln Memorial ☎202/619-7222, ⓦwww.nps.gov/kwvm. Daily 24hr, staffed 8am–midnight. Dedicated in July 1995, this memorial has as a centrepiece a Field of Remembrance featuring nineteen life-size, heavily armed combat troops sculpted from stainless steel. They advance across a triangular plot with alternating rows of stone and plant life, meant to resemble both a rice paddy and a mine field, and head ultimately toward the Stars and Stripes positioned at the vertex. Beyond this assemblage is a reflective black granite wall, inscribed "Freedom is not free" and etched with a mural depicting military support crew and medical staff.

Although not as well known or as popular as the Vietnam War Memorial, the memorial commemorates a war that was no less bloody for US soldiers. Between 1950 and 1953, almost 55,000 Americans were killed in Korea (with another 8000 missing in action and more than 103,000 wounded), but unlike those who fought in Vietnam, the soldiers sent into battle by President Truman on behalf of the South Korean government went in the name of the United Nations. Thus the memorial also lists the fifteen other countries who volunteered forces, with Britain, France, Greece, and Turkey in particular suffering significant casualties.

Lincoln Memorial

West Potomac Park at 23rd St NW ☎202/426-6841, ⓦwww.nps.gov/linc. Daily 24hr, staffed 8am–midnight. The Lincoln Memorial needs no introduction. As one of the country's most recognizable symbols, it is both a representation of its political ideology (Athenian, Neoclassical architecture) and social activism (speeches, protests, etc.). Hardly a year goes without some memorable march or event taking place here. The site's most famous speech

occurred on August 28, 1963, when Dr Martin Luther King Jr chose the memorial to the Great Emancipator as the spot from which to make his "I have a dream" speech to 200,000 people gathered here and along the Mall. Aided by backdrops of the Potomac and Arlington to the west and the Reflecting Pool to the east, it's also one of the best places in town to take a stirring photograph without really trying.

Climbing the steps to the memorial is one of DC's more profound moments, its 36 columns symbolizing the number of states that made up the Union at the time of Lincoln's death, with bas-relief plaques on the attic parapet commemorating the 48 states of the Union that existed when the memorial was completed in 1922. As you enter the building you'll notice murals on the north and south walls, representing Fraternity, Unity of North and South, Charity (north wall), and Emancipation and Immortality (south wall), directly under which are carved inscriptions of Lincoln's two most celebrated speeches. On the north wall is the Gettysburg Address of November 19, 1863, while on the south is the measured eloquence of Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address of March 4, 1865, in which he strove "to bind up the nation's wounds" caused by the Civil War. The momentous centerpiece is, of course, the seated statue of Lincoln himself, created by Daniel Chester French, which faces out through the colonnade. French certainly succeeded in his intention to "convey the mental and physical strength of the great war President": full of resolve, a steely Lincoln clasps the armrests of a thronelike chair with determined hands, his unbuttoned coat falling to either side; the American flag is draped over the back of the chair. It's a phenomenal work, one which took French thirteen years to complete, fashioning the 19ft-tall statue from 28 blocks of white Georgia marble.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial

Henry Bacon Drive and Constitution Ave at 21st St NW ☎202/634-1568, Ⓦwww.nps.gov/vive. Daily 24hr, staffed 8am–midnight. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial is one of the most poignant monuments to be found anywhere. Consisting of a polished black-granite chevron cut into the earth, the memorial is inscribed with the names of the 58,191 American casualties of the Vietnam war in chronological order (1959–75). Each name has appended either a diamond (a confirmed death) or cross (missing in action and still unaccounted for – about 1100

▼VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

names). The words are etched into an east and west wall that each run for 250ft, slicing deeper into the ground, until meeting at a vertex 10ft high. It's a sobering experience to walk past the ranks of names and the untold experiences they represent, not least for the friends and relatives who come here to take rubbings of the names and leave memorial tokens at the foot of the walls. Directories list the names and their locations for anyone trying to find a particular person, and a ranger is on hand until midnight to answer questions.

A national competition was held in 1980 to determine the memorial's design, and Maya Lin, then just a 21-year-old Yale student, won. (The original design is sometimes displayed in the Library of Congress' Jefferson Building.)

When it was built, the memorial's nonpolitical stance came to be seen as a political act itself by some ex-soldiers. Concerned that these somber, dignified walls made no overt reference to military (as opposed to personal) sacrifice, successful lobbying led to the commissioning of a separate martial statue to be added to the site, just to the south. Later lobbying led to the establishment of the **Vietnam Women's Memorial** in 1993, which stands in a grove at the east end of the main site. Few realize that 11,000 American women served in Vietnam (eight were killed), while almost a quarter of a million provided support services during the conflict. The bronze sculpture shows one nurse on her knees, exhausted; one tending a wounded soldier; and a third raising her eyes to the sky.

Constitution Gardens

On the north side of the Reflecting Pool, Constitution Gardens is a pleasant, fifty-acre area of trees and dells surrounding a kidney-shaped lake. A plaque on the island in the center commemorates the 56 signatories of the Declaration of Independence, and every September 17, Constitution Day, the signing of the document is celebrated with, among other things, an outdoor naturalization service for foreign-born DC residents.

National Museum of American History

14th St NW and Constitution Ave ☎202/357-2700, ⓦwww.americanhistory.si.edu. Daily 10am–5.30pm. The ever-popular National Museum of American History is not so much a scholarly center as it is an entertaining hodgepodge of castoffs and antiques from nearly four hundred years of American and pre-American history – eighteenth-century farming equipment to computer chips, jukeboxes to washing machines, harmonicas to train engines. Each floor

▼US FLAG, MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY

▲NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

has something unique and fascinating, whether it's George Washington's wooden teeth, Jackie Kennedy's designer dresses, or the ruby slippers Judy Garland wore in *The Wizard of Oz*; these items are set among more didactic displays tracing the country's development from colonial times. As a sanctuary for vanishing Americana, the museum is a real storehouse for the glories of the past, and may in its various exhibits show you anything from a rebuilt eighteenth-century house to the original Star-Spangled Banner itself – now looking a bit worse for wear and slowly being preserved by workers laboring on an overhead lift.

Beyond this, two central exhibits draw your attention, the first of which is the "The American Presidency," devoted to presidential life in and beyond the White House. Its fulcrum is the walk-through Ceremonial Court, designed to resemble the Cross Hall of the White House as it appeared after its 1902 renovation, with displays of glass, porcelain, tinware, and silver from the White House collections. Especially interesting is the cabinet displaying personal items of the presidents: Washington's telescope, Grant's leather cigar case, Nixon's gold pen, Wilson's golf clubs, Jefferson's eyeglasses, and Theodore Roosevelt's toiletry set. The other main area worth a look is the recently opened "America on the Move" exhibit, loaded with modes of transportation from various parts of the country, including an urban elevated train, a massive 260-ton locomotive engine, and automobiles from Model Ts to modern hot rods.

National Museum of Natural History

10th St NW and Constitution Ave ⓣ202/357-2700, ⓦwww.mnh.si.edu. Daily 10am–5.30pm. Although not advertised as one of its strong points, the National Museum of Natural History is unquestionably one of the best places for children visiting the nation's capital, and any visit to the museum will doubtless

be accompanied by the yelps of school kids on field trips or with their parents. If you can handle such an atmosphere, the institution is well worth a look, providing an eye-opening array of displays on subjects from biology and paleontology to mining and geology. You'll need to go early to avoid the worst of the crowds, especially in summer and during school holidays.

This is one of the oldest of DC's museums, founded in 1911, with its early collection partly based on the specimens that the Smithsonian commissioned from the game-hunting Theodore Roosevelt on his African safaris of 1909–10. The museum's imposing three-story entrance rotunda is built around a colossal African elephant, and hundreds of other animals, tracing evolution from fossilized four-billion-year-old plankton to dinosaurs' eggs and beyond, are displayed in the exhibits. The highlight for many is the section devoted to dinosaurs, their hulking skeletons reassembled in imaginative poses and accompanied by informative text, written with a light touch. The massive diplodocus, the most imposing specimen, was discovered in Utah in 1923, at what is now Dinosaur National Monument. Stay in this section long enough to tour the related displays – on the Ice Age, Ancient Seas, Fossil Mammals, and Fossil Plants – which cover mollusks, lizards, giant turtles, and early fish in exhaustive, engaging detail. Also meriting a visit is a new section nearby that covers the many facets of the world of mammals, showing the furry, milk-producing creatures in all their terrestrial environments, and giving viewers a chance to consider their own relationship to the warm-blooded beasts.

Finally, no visit would be complete without taking a gander at the Hope Diamond. Found in the stunning National Gem Collection, this legendary 45-carat stone is reputed to be cursed, its various owners (including Marie Antoinette) condemned to early deaths, financial ruin, or other calamities.

National Gallery of Art – West

Constitution Ave between 4th and 7th sts NW ☎202/737-4215, ⓦwww.nga.gov. Mon–Sat 10am–5pm, Sun 11am–6pm. The estimable National Gallery is not part of the Smithsonian Institution, despite being located on a prime spot on the Mall and sitting cheek-to-jowl with other Smithsonian museums. Rather, it is the legacy of noted financier Andrew Mellon, who began to buy the works of European Old Masters in his late 20s and later bequeathed to the gallery a score of masterpieces bought in 1931 from the government of the USSR, which plundered the works in the Hermitage to prop up its faltering economy. Now known as the West Building, the original symmetrical, Neoclassical gallery is overwhelming at first sight: on the main floor, two wings stretch for 400ft on either side of a central rotunda, whose massive dome is supported by 24 black Ionic columns. The entire floor contains almost one hundred display rooms, full of masterpieces ranging from thirteenth-century Italian to nineteenth-century European and American art. Down on the ground floor are changing exhibitions from the gallery's virtuoso collection of prints, drawings, sculpture, and decorative art. Since the museum is slowly undergoing a staggered

renovation, with various sections off-limits for months or years at a time, it's unclear exactly what you'll be able to see when you come. The centerpieces of the Renaissance collection include work by Leonardo da Vinci – whose *Ginevra de' Benci* is the only work by the artist in the United States – and Sandro Botticelli, whose devout rendering of the *Adoration of the Magi* dates from the early 1480s. Spanish standouts include pieces by El Greco and Velasquez, while German painters are also well represented by the likes of Albrecht Dürer, whose *Madonna and Child* grafts realistic Renaissance figures onto a northern European landscape, and Matthias Grünewald, with an especially agonized view of the Crucifixion. Fans of seventeenth-century Dutch art will be rewarded with views of exceptional portraits by Rembrandt and Hals and the always-popular genre scenes of Jan Vermeer – whose unprolific career only left 35 extant paintings, three of which the gallery owns. Later French artists also make memorable appearances, from revolutionary-turned-Napoleonic propagandist David to Impressionists such as Monet, Renoir, and the rest of the lot. Noted American artists include Washington portraitist Gilbert Stuart and heroic landscape painters Thomas Cole and Albert Bierstadt. Especially entrancing is the work of Britain's J.M.W. Turner, which includes a gentle, hazy *Approach to Venice* and *Keelmen Heaving in Coals by Moonlight*, a harbor scene set in the industrial north of England.

National Gallery of Art – East

Constitution Ave between 3rd and 4th sts NW ⓣ 202/737-4215, ⓦ www.nga.gov. Mon–Sat 10am–5pm, Sun 11am–6pm. Although it doesn't quite hold the same number of treasures as does its neighbor to the west, the East Wing of the National Gallery of Art is still quite compelling in its own right, and not only for its striking modern architecture designed by I.M. Pei. Built in the 1970s to help accommodate the gallery's ever-expanding collection, this wing's exhibition spaces are often taken up with special shows, so the museum's own holdings may not be on

▼NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART, EAST BUILDING

display when you visit. If any of the artists or works below form part of your reason for visiting, be sure to call first.

Highlights start with the work of Henri Matisse – with restrained early works giving way to the exuberant *Pianist* and *Checker Players* – and Pablo Picasso, who is represented by several diverse pieces, including the Blue Period item *The Tragedy* (1903) and *Family of Saltimbanques* (1905), depicting itinerant circus performers. Post-1945 art is shown downstairs in the concourse-level galleries. Besides Warhol works like *32 Soup Cans*, *Let Us Now Praise Famous Men*, and *Green Marilyn*, there's art by Roy Lichtenstein, Clyfford Still, and Willem de Kooning, as well as artists using huge color swatches: large canvases by Mark Rothko, thirteen massively striped *Stations of the Cross* by Barnett Newman, and the primary colors of Ellsworth Kelly. The museum also features signature work by Robert Rauschenberg, Jasper Johns, and Claes Oldenburg, whose *Red (Hot) Drainpipe* is a huge, soft-red sculpture that looks as much like a drooping phallus as anything under the sink.

The work of Oldenburg and other sculptors is also on display between the National Gallery and the Natural History Museum in an outdoor **Sculpture Garden** (same hours as museum), that doubles as a winter ice rink. Here, a handful of appealing works are situated in a garden setting and crowned by a few key items: an original Art Nouveau arch from the Paris Metro of the early twentieth-century, and, again, one of Oldenburg's oversized pieces – in this case an old-fashioned typewriter eraser wheel blown up to elephantine size.

National Museum of the American Indian

Jefferson Drive between 3rd and 4th sts SW ☎202/357-2700, ⓦwww.nmai.si.edu. Daily 10am–5.30pm. Opened to the public in September 2004, the National Museum of the American Indian is the newest of the Mall's many museums and is instantly recognizable by its curvaceous modern form with undulating walls the color of yellow earth – designed to represent the natural American landscape. Planned in the mid-1990s, the museum was nine years in development and occupies the last major site along the Mall. It's designed to recognize and honor the many tribes of native peoples who occupied the continent before the six-

▼NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN

▲WRIGHT FLYER, NATIONAL AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM

teenth- and seventeenth-century arrival of white settlers, including such groups and nations as the Iroquois, Sioux, Navajo, Cherokee, and countless others. The collections reach back thousands of years and incorporate nearly a million objects from nations spread out from Canada to Mexico; on display are woven garments, musical instruments, totem poles, artworks, kachina dolls, canoes, and ceremonial masks, headdresses, and outfits. The museum also sponsors periodic musical and dance events, along with lectures, films, and other cultural presentations.

National Air and Space Museum

Independence Ave and 6th St SW ☎202/357-2700, ⓦwww.nasm.si.edu. Daily 10am–5.30pm. If there's one museum people have heard about in DC, and just one they want to visit, it's the National Air and Space Museum. Since it opened in 1976, the museum has captured the imagination of almost ten million people every year, making it the most popular attraction in the city. The excitement begins in the entrance gallery, which throws together some of the most celebrated flying machines in history, from Lindbergh's *Spirit of St. Louis* and sound-barrier-breaking fighters to spy planes and satellites like Sputnik and Skylab, plus looming Cold War-era missiles. Although the huge institution has many high-ceilinged galleries stuffed with airplanes and aeronautic devices, it's most famous for two core exhibits. The first revolves around the *Wright Flyer*, the handmade plane in which the Wright Brothers made the first powered flight in December 1903 at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. It's now on display in its own gallery, surrounded by other mementos of the Wright Brothers' inventive ways, including one of their rare bicycles – a product that they first started out making, understandably having no formal training as airplane designers. The other big-name gallery here is devoted to the Space Race – from the time John Glenn became the first American to orbit the earth with the launch of *Friendship* 7 in 1962 (his spacesuit is preserved and on display), to Edward H. White's virgin space-walk in 1965 from

the two-seater *Gemini 4* craft, to the famous July 1969 landing when the minuscule *Apollo 11* command module reached the moon.

Fervent devotees of airplanes and spacecraft can also inquire at the museum about taking a shuttle ($7) to the newly opened Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center, which has the same hours and free admission as its parent institution, though it's located in suburban Virginia. Here you can find everything – from the Blackbird spy plane to the Space Shuttle – that's too big even to fit into the main building on the Mall.

Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden

Independence Ave and 7th St SW ☎202/357-2700, ⓦwww.hirshhorn.si.edu. Daily 10am–5.30pm. The concrete cylinder of the Hirshhorn Museum, balanced on 15ft stilts above a sculpture-laden plaza, has been likened to everything from a monumental donut to a spaceship poised for takeoff. Inside is contained the Smithsonian's collection of late-nineteenth- and twentieth-century art, based on the bequest of Joseph H. Hirshhorn, who collected art on a massive scale: the original 1966 bequest was of 4000 paintings and 2600 sculptures; by the time of his death in 1981, the number had risen to more than 12,000 pieces.

Not surprisingly, American art makes a particularly good showing: there are portraits by John Singer Sargent, Mary Cassatt, and Thomas Eakins, as well as works by Winslow Homer, Albert Bierstadt, and Edward Hopper. There are also later pieces by the usual Abstract Expressionist heavyweights, in particular Willem de Kooning – the Hirshhorn collection of his work is one of the most impressive anywhere.

▼HIRSHHORN MUSEUM

Meanwhile, the sculpture collection runs through the third floor, which starts with figurative paintings from the Victorian era and winds toward Abstract Expressionism and Pop Art; the collection is particularly strong on Henry Moore. Look out for *Kiln Man*, Robert Arneson's self-portrait as a brick chimney, with little cigar-smoking heads of the artist ready for firing inside. It's also hard to miss Nam June Paik's *Video Flag* (1985–96), composed of seventy 13-inch monitors, with a flurry of

images spanning the presidents from Truman to Clinton, all the while managing to resemble a fluttering American flag. Particularly enticing is the work of Joseph Cornell, who is honored with an entire room devoted to his art boxes – little found objects and curiosities arrayed behind glass, the most enchanting of them being the *Medici Princess*. Less familiar artists also get their due, among them Lucas Samaras, whose forbidding *Book no. 6* is made of straight pins, and Giacomo Balla, whose vigorously jagged painted-metal pieces look just about ready to tear your hand off if you get too close.

Much of the Hirshhorn's monumental sculpture is contained in the Sculpture Garden, a sunken concrete arbor across Jefferson Drive on the Mall side of the museum. Works include Rodin's *Monument to the Burghers of Calais* and pieces by the likes of Matisse, Moore, Joan Miró, and David Smith. Of the lesser-known works, several stand out, like Gaston Lachaise's proud, bronze *Standing Woman (Heroic Woman)* from 1932. The garden's stagnant pond is fronted by Alexander Calder's *Six Dots over a Mountain* (1956); for a more impressive Calder, make for the museum entrance on Independence Avenue, where his *Two Disks* (1965) sit on five spidery legs tall enough for you to walk under.

National Museum of African Art

950 Independence Ave SW ☎202/357-2700, ⓦwww.africa.si.edu. Daily 10am–5.30pm. The nation's foremost collection of the traditional arts of sub-Saharan Africa, the National Museum of African Art occupies one of the Mall's most appealing buildings, its circular motifs and domes recalling a traditional African dwelling. The museum houses some six thousand sculptures and artifacts from a wide variety of cultures, displayed in permanent galleries and bolstered by special exhibitions. One particular highlight is the art of the Nubian trading city of Kerma, which flourished between 2500 and 1500 BC. On display are perfectly round ceramic bowls and delicate ivory animal figures from the ceremonial beds used to carry the dead to the cemetery for burial. Even better is the adjacent gallery's display of royal art from the Kingdom of Benin, home of Edo-speaking people in what is now Nigeria. It's a small collection of highly accomplished works relating to the rule of the Oba, or king, some dating back as far as the fifteenth century. The best pieces here are the copper alloy heads (made using the lost-wax casting technique), some of which depict an Oba, although one is of a defeated enemy. There's also a picture of the current Oba on the gallery wall, in resplendent orange, whose ceremonial headdress and neck-ruff echo those depicted on the copper heads – evidence that the same royal style has prevailed for more than five hundred years.

Other galleries cover peoples from Cameroon to Ghana, whose Asante people are depicted in sculpture with a seated male and female with disk-shaped heads, a form considered to be the aesthetic ideal. One of the most engaging works – a headrest from the Luba people of the Congo – is supported by two caryatid figures with their arms entwined. Finally, the "Art of the Personal Object" displays chairs, stools, and headrests, mostly carved from wood using an adze, as well as

▲SMITHSONIAN CASTLE

assorted ivory snuff containers (two from Angola with stoppers shaped like human heads), beer straws (from Uganda), carved drinking horns, combs, pipes, spoons, baskets, and cups.

The Smithsonian Castle

1000 Jefferson Drive SW ⓣ202/357-2700, ⓦwww.si.edu. Daily 10am–5.30pm. Easily the most striking edifice on the Mall, the Smithsonian Institution Building is a marvel of ruddy brown sandstone, nave windows, and slender steeples – little surprise, then, that it's widely known as the Smithsonian Castle. Basically, it's the place where you can pick up all the information you need for touring the city's Smithsonian museums and check out models and diagrams of the original plans for Washington DC. More appealing for many visitors, though, are the lovely **Enid A. Haupt Gardens** outside, where you'll also find several topiary bison and well-tended plots of decorative flowers. It's a fitting holdover from the Victorian era, as is the adjoining **Art and Industries Building**, with its playful polychromatic brick-and-tile patterns. However, despite its historic value as one of the Smithsonian's founding structures, the building is undergoing renovation and won't to be open to the public any time soon.

National Museum of Asian Art

Jefferson Drive SW between 10th and 12th sts ⓣ202/357-2700, ⓦwww.asia.si.edu. Daily 10am–5.30pm. The last major institution along the Mall is the National Museum of Asian Art, which encompasses two buildings – the **Freer** and **Sackler galleries**. Formerly two distinct entities, these neighboring galleries have since been merged into one harmonious unit, which is most evident below ground, where the buildings are linked by a passageway. Sackler Gallery highlights include "The Arts of China," with its 3000-year-old Chinese bronzes, temple guard figures of the Tang Dynasty, and Qing Dynasty "scholar's rocks" – natural pieces of stone resembling mountains, meant to encourage lofty thoughts. The art of Silk Road-era cultures encompasses Syrian bowls, Persian plates, and Central Asian swords, while the South and Southeast Asian collection includes a third-century carved head of the Buddha; bronze, brass, and granite representations of Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva; and a thirteenth-century stone carving of the

elephant-headed Ganesha. The Freer Gallery is also quite appealing for anyone with an interest in non-Western art and design, especially its collection of Japanese art, which includes painted folding screens called *byobu*, which depict the seasons or themes from Japanese literature and range from two to ten panels long. Other choice items include a nineteenth-century porcelain dish shaped like Mount Fuji, a twelfth-century wooden Buddha, and gold-leaf Korean ceramics from the tenth to the fourteenth centuries. Other rooms are devoted to Chinese art, ranging from ancient jade burial goods to ornate bronzes, and a stunning series of objects adorned with calligraphy, from hand scrolls to jars, bowls, and even ceramic pillows. The South Asian art collection offers delicate temple sculpture, colorful devotional texts, and gold jewelry inset with rubies and diamonds. Finally, the Freer is also known for its cache of work by American artist James M. Whistler. Along with representative oils (the best are dark, moody, nocturnal waterscapes), the centerpiece is the Peacock Room, a monumental showpiece with blue-painted leather walls and murals representing fighting peacocks – claimed by the artist to represent the relationship of the painter and his patron.

▼PEACOCK ROOM, FREER GALLERY OF ART

Capitol Hill

Capitol Hill is, famously, the focus of American lawmaking and a political showpiece without compare – the towering silhouette of the Capitol dome dominates the DC landscape. As a neighborhood, "the Hill" has a more unexpected side. While everyone knows of governmental powerhouses like the US Supreme Court and Library of Congress, less familiar are the casual restaurants and bars lining Pennsylvania Avenue SE, the curious wares of the Eastern Market, and the area's lovely pieces of historic architecture. On the north side of the Hill, Union Station still draws visitors by rail, while the nearby National Postal Museum is one of the Smithsonian's quiet triumphs. To the south, the US Botanic Garden offers a lush, colorful retreat once you've maxed out on museums.

US Capitol

East end of the Mall, between Constitution and Independence aves ☎202/225-6827 tours, ☎202/224-3121 general info, 🌐www.aoc.gov. Daily tours 9am–4.30pm. As the focus of American democracy and the seat of the legislature, the white-ribbed dome of the Capitol sits between two similarly imposing edifices for the House of Representatives and the Senate. Though an inviting sight, at first glance it can seem quite daunting: the West Front is guarded and gated in the wake of 9/11, and visitors are not allowed entrance without a building pass, while the East Front is being completely reconstructed to make way for a new underground visitors center, scheduled to open in 2006.

You'll soon arrive at the **Rotunda**, not only at the center of the US Capitol but point zero of the entire city. Some 180ft high and 96ft across, its dome is decorated by Constantino Brumidi's mighty fresco depicting the *Apotheosis of Washington*, which shows George Washington surrounded by symbols representing American democracy, arts, science, industry,

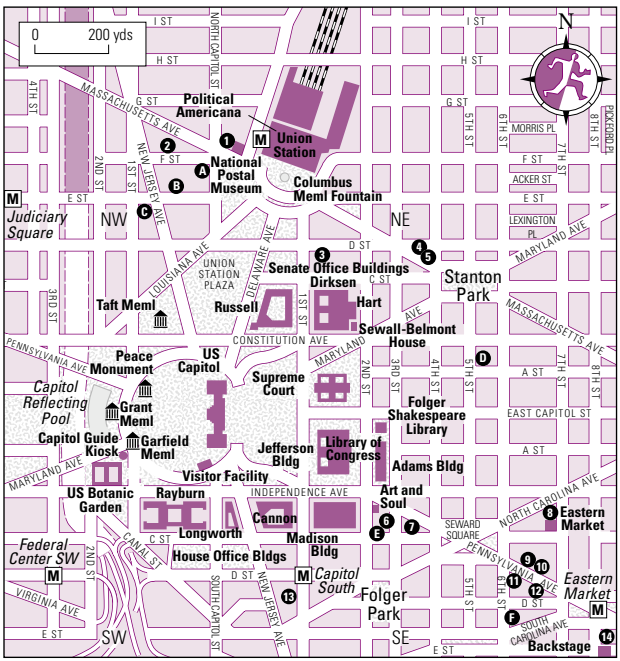
Visiting the US Capitol

You can access the building by dropping by (as early in the morning as possible) the Capitol Guide Service kiosk, near the southwest side of the complex (close to the James Garfield statue, 1st St SW at Maryland Ave), to obtain free tickets. From there, you'll wait at the South Visitor Receiving Facility, on the south side of the US House, until a tour commences.

For a chance to see the House and Senate chambers, American citizens can try applying to their representative's or senator's office in advance for a pass valid for the entire (two-year) session of Congress. For more information call ☎202/225-6827 or visit 🌐www.house.gov or 🌐www.senate.gov.

and the thirteen original states. Running around the Rotunda wall is a frieze celebrating American history, which starts with Columbus's arrival in the New World and finishes with Civil War scenes. Below the frieze hang eight large oil paintings, four depicting events associated with the colonization of the country – Columbus again, and the embarkation of the Pilgrims – though the most notable are the four of the Revolutionary War period by John Trumbull. Busts and statues of prominent American leaders fill in the gaps in the rest of the Rotunda: Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, and Jackson are all here, along with a modern bust of Dr Martin Luther King Jr and a gold-and-glass facsimile of the Magna Carta. In such august surroundings, 29 prominent members of Congress, military leaders, and eminent citizens (including ten presidents from Lincoln to Reagan) have been laid in state before burial.

From the Rotunda, you move south into one of the earliest extensions of the building, which once housed the



ACCOMMODATION	
Bull Moose B&B	D
Capitol Hill Suites	E
Hereford House	F
Hotel George	B
Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill	C
Phoenix Park	A

EATING AND DRINKING			
Bread and Chocolate	10	Las Placitas	14
Bullfeathers	13	Market Lunch	8
Café Berlin	5	The Monocle	3
Capitol City Brewing Co.	1	Mr. Henry's	11
Capitol Lounge	6	Murky Coffee	9
Hawk 'n Dove	7	Remington's	12
Kelly's Irish Times	2	Two Quail	4

▲GRANT MEMORIAL, WEST FRONT OF US CAPITOL

chamber of the House of Representatives. When the House moved into its new wing in 1857, the chamber saw a variety of temporary uses until Congress decided to invite each state to contribute two statues of its most famous citizens for display in a **National Statuary Hall**. Around forty are still on show here, with the recent focus being the Suffrage Monument, depicting women's-rights pioneers Susan B. Anthony, Lucretia Mott, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton poking their heads out of a large, uncut block of granite – one of only six statues of women in the entire building.

North of the Rotunda, the **Old Senate Chamber** was built in 1810 and reconstructed in 1819 after the British had burned down the Capitol in the War of 1812. The Senate met in this splendid semicircular gallery, with its embossed rose ceiling, until 1859, when it moved into its current quarters. The chamber then housed the Supreme Court until 1935, when it, too, was given a new building. After that the Old Senate Chamber lay largely unused until restored to its mid-nineteenth-century glory in time for the Bicentennial. The members' desks today are reproductions, but the gilt eagle topping the vice president's chair is original, as is the portrait of George Washington by Rembrandt Peale. Contemporary engravings helped restorers reproduce other features of the original Senate chamber, like the rich red carpet emblazoned with gold stars.

Before 1810, the Senate met on the floor below the Old Senate Chamber, in a room that was revamped in 1819 to house the Supreme Court; the Court remained until 1860, before moving to the chamber just vacated by the Senate. The **Old Supreme Court Chamber** served as a law library until 1950, after which it too was restored to its mid-nineteenth-century appearance. Its dark, comfortable recesses resemble a gentleman's club – which, in many ways, it was. Some of the furnishings are original, including the desks, tables, and chairs, and the busts of the first five chief justices. On the same level as the Old Supreme Court Chamber, underneath the Rotunda, lies the **Crypt**. Lined with Doric columns, it

was designed to house a tomb containing George Washington's body, a plan that was never realized. The Crypt instead serves as an exhibition center (provided it's open for tours), displaying the history of the Capitol's construction.

The visitors' galleries of the **House and Senate chambers** are not currently part of the official Capitol tour, and even if you do manage to gain entrance (see box p.68) the chambers may well be empty, or deep in torpor. Still, both are suitably grand: the House is more imposing, with its decorative frieze and oil paintings; from here the president addresses joint sessions of Congress, including the annual State of the Union speech. The Senate chamber is more widely recognized these days, as it was the setting for the 1999 impeachment trial of President Clinton.

▼NATIONAL STATUARY HALL, US CAPITOL

Legislative offices

Paradoxically perhaps, you can get a lot closer to senators and representatives in their own offices than you can in the Capitol itself, and access to these buildings is usually quite open, consisting mainly of guards and scanners. These six office buildings are also where most of the day-to-day political activity takes place in committee rooms – named for politicians and built from 1908 to 1982 – where the hearings have been open to the public since the 1970s. The Senate office buildings (Russell, Dirksen, and Hart) are north of the Capitol, and the House offices (Cannon, Longworth, and Rayburn) are south. Committee hearings (usually held in the morning) are listed in the *Washington Post*'s "Today in Congress" section: unless you turn up early, you may not get in, especially to anything featured on the TV news.

Grant Memorial

Contrary to what you might expect, the West Front of the Capitol is not graced with a statue of Washington, Lincoln, Jefferson, or anyone else considered to have been a great chief executive, but instead one of the country's worst presidents: Ulysses S. Grant. Of course, Grant's presence is due to his successful generalship in the Civil War, not his scandal-plagued presidency. True to form, the "Galena Tanner" rides a noble steed on a marble pedestal and looks to the west at the National Mall, while directly below the Capitol Reflecting Pool provides a nice spot for relaxation and a good mirror image of the Capitol. The Grant Memorial is quite a stirring sight, with the general guarded by lions and looming above sculptures of an artillery unit moving through thick mud into battle (south side) and a charg-

▲PALM HOUSE, US BOTANIC GARDEN

ing cavalry unit (north side). Sculptor Henry Merwin Shrady spent twenty years on the work, using uniformed soldiers in training as his models.

US Botanic Garden

245 1st St SW ⓣ202/225-8333, ⓦwww.usbg.gov. Daily 10am–5pm. The US Botanic Garden sits near a corner of – but not directly on – the National Mall, and is always a popular site for touring the country's horticultural highlights. The centerpiece is a Conservatory crowned by an eighty-foot-tall Palm House, the results of a recent renovation that transformed the Victorian-style structure, built in 1933, into a state-of-the-art greenhouse – where it's now possible to grow plants from almost everywhere in the world. More than four thousand plants are now resident here and on display, and include several climate-controlled rooms devoted to colorful ranks of tropical, subtropical, and desert plants. Especially intriguing are the section showcasing orchids, where two hundred of the garden's twelve thousand varieties are visible at any one time, and the Jungle Room, stuffed with equatorial trees and other plants and humid almost to the point of discomfort.

US Supreme Court

1st St and Maryland Ave NE ⓣ202/479-3211, ⓦwww.scus.gov. Mon–Fri 9am–4.30pm. The third – and easily the most respected – branch of American government, the judiciary, has its apex at the US Supreme Court. Not only is the court the final judge of what is and isn't constitutional, it's also the nation's final arbiter for disputes between states, the federal government and states, federal and state judges, and individuals fighting all kinds of government decisions, from boundary disputes to death-penalty appeals. Although the court has moved around to different chambers over many decades, in the 1930s it got its own home, a grand Greek Revival edifice created by Cass Gilbert, emblazoned with the weighty motto "Equal Justice Under Law." Outside, the building positively glistens as natural light bounces off the bright white marble, while the wide steps down to 1st Street are flanked by sculptures of the Contemplation of Justice and the Guardian of Law.

Inside, the main corridor – known as the Great Hall – features a superb carved and painted ceiling of floral plaques, while its white walls are lined with marble columns, interspersed with busts of all the former chief justices. At the end of the corridor is the surprisingly compact Court Chamber, flanked by more marble columns and decorated with damask drapes and a molded plaster ceiling lined in

gold leaf. When in session, the Chief Justice sits in the center of the bench (below the clock), with the most senior justice on the right and the next in precedence on the left; the rest sit in similar alternating fashion. Curiously, the justices' chairs are made in the Court's own carpentry shop.

The Court is in session from October through June. Between the beginning of October and the end of April, oral arguments are heard every Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 10am to noon and 1pm to 3pm for two weeks each month. The sessions, which almost always last one hour per case, are open to the public on a first-come, first-served basis: arrive by 8.30am to be sure of getting one of the 150 seats. Most casual visitors simply join the separate line, happy to settle for a three-minute stroll through the standing gallery. When Court is not in session, guides give informative lectures in the Court Chamber (Mon–Fri 9.30am–3.30pm; hourly on the half-hour).

▼US SUPREME COURT

Library of Congress

1st St SE at Independence Ave
☎202/707-8000, ⓦwww.loc.gov.
Mon–Sat 10am–5.30pm. Based on the original collection of Thomas Jefferson, the Library of Congress has since 1870 been the nation's official copyright library – adding to its shelves a copy of every book published and registered in the United States. Since then, it has become the world's largest library, and with time and technological progress books became just a part of its unimaginably large collection. Today, 110 million items (from books, maps, and manuscripts to movies, musical instruments, and photographs) are kept on 600 miles of shelving spread out over three buildings; it's said that on average ten items a minute are added to the library's holdings – where they stay, as the Library of Congress does not circulate its materials beyond the complex. If you're here to do research, you can register at the Jefferson Building (the main, classical structure on 1st Street) by providing a copy of your driver's license or passport; anyone over 18 is allowed admittance to the domed octagonal Reading Room – adorned with hundreds of mosaics, murals, and sculptures – provided they go through the proper security procedures.

Otherwise, you can wander around yourself or take one of the free library tours (Mon–Sat 10.30am, 11.30am, 1.30pm, 2.30pm & 3.30pm; last tour Sat 2.30pm), which are, unfortunately, more popular than you'd expect and involve some rather long lines during the high season. You'll miss the Reading Room and have to be content with the beautifully vaulted Great Hall, rich with marble walls and

numerous medallions, inscriptions, murals, and inlaid mosaics. The other highlight is on the second floor in the "American Treasures" gallery, where themed cabinets – "Civil Society," "Mapping," "Invention and Film," "Technology," and so on – display some of the nation's most significant documents. The exhibits are periodically rotated, but you'll encounter such diverse pieces as Walt Whitman's Civil War notebooks, the original manuscript of Martin Luther King Jr's "I Have A Dream" speech, a copy of Francis Scott Key's "Star-Spangled Banner," and a multitude of music scores, historic photographs, early recordings, magazines, and baseball cards.

Sewall-Belmont House

144 Constitution Ave NE ☎202/546-1210, ⓦwww.sewallbelmont.org. Tues–Fri 11am–3pm, Sat noon–4pm. $3. North of the Supreme Court, the red-brick edifice known as the Sewall-Belmont House is among the oldest private residences in the city, built in 1800 by Robert Sewall. The British tried to burn it down in the War of 1812, but unlike the Capitol, it wasn't too badly damaged; enough survived, in fact, for the Treaty of Ghent – the document that ended the war – to be negotiated here. In 1929, the house was sold to the National Woman's Party and was home for many years to Alice Paul, the party's founder and author of the 1923 Equal Rights Amendment. The house is still the party headquarters and maintains a museum and gallery dedicated to the country's women's and suffrage movements. A short film fills in some of the background, after which you'll be escorted around on a short tour that makes much of the period furnishings; the carriage house, one of the oldest parts of the building, contains the country's earliest feminist library. There are portraits, busts, and photographs of all the best-known activists; other mementos of the famous include the desks of both Alice Paul and Susan B. Anthony, while over the staircase hangs the banner used to picket the White House during World War I as the clamor for universal suffrage reached its apex. The building recently secured $1 million to complete an overdue renovation to preserve its internal structure, and may be periodically closed in coming years.

Folger Shakespeare Library

201 E Capitol St ☎202/544-7077, ⓦwww.folger.edu. Mon–Sat 10am–4pm, free 90min guided tours Mon–Fri 11am, Sat 11am & 1pm. The renowned Folger Shakespeare Library provides an unexpected burst of Art Deco architecture, with a sparkling white marble facade split by geometric window grilles and reliefs depicting scenes from the Bard's plays. Inside, however, the expansive 1930s mood is immediately transformed by a dark oak-paneled Elizabethan Great Hall, featuring carved lintels, stained glass, Tudor roses, and a fine, sculpted ceiling. Founded in 1932, the Folger holds more than 300,000 books, manuscripts, paintings, and engravings, accessible to scholars, and has evolved over the decades into a celebration of Shakespearean culture. The Great Hall displays changing exhibitions about the playwright and Elizabethan themes; the reproduction Elizabethan Theater hosts lectures

and readings as well as medieval and Renaissance music concerts by the Folger Consort; there's even an Elizabethan garden outside on the east lawn, growing herbs and flowers common in gardens of the sixteenth century. The library itself – another masterfully reproduced sixteenth-century room – is open to the public only during the Folger's annual celebration of Shakespeare's birthday (usually the Saturday nearest April 23).

Pennsylvania Avenue SE

To most visitors the section of Pennsylvania Avenue running southeast from the Capitol will be much less familiar than the stretch running northwest from it, site of the presidential inaugural parade. Still, over the course of six blocks or so, you can find a good collection of some of the District's more appealing ethnic restaurants and noteworthy bars – practically the only decent food and drink to be found in the vicinity – amid a gentrifying scene that attracts increasing numbers of yuppies looking for affordable digs; you'll also see Congressional staff out for a break from the Capitol Hill grind. The avenue runs through some historically important architecture, the likes of nineteenth-century townhouses and preserved Georgian buildings. Keep in mind that while there's a convenient Metro stop here ("Eastern Market" station on the Blue and Orange lines), it's worth being wary after dark – this was where Supreme Court justice David Souter was mugged in 2004, not far from his home.

▼PENNSYLVANIA AVE SE

Eastern Market

7th and C sts SE Ⓜ www.easternmarket.net. Tues–Fri 10am–6pm, Sat 8am–6pm, Sun 8am–4pm. If you're taking a stroll east of the Capitol, you may wonder what all the hubbub is around what looks like an ancient brick rail station. This forbidding windowless 1873 structure has nothing to do with trains, but has long been the major commercial hub of the Eastern Market. Designed by Adolph Cluss with less flamboyance than his Arts and Industries Building on the Mall, the market is home to a welter of vendors doing roaring business selling seafood, deli meats, sides of beef, and other foodstuffs. On the weekend, the stalls spill onto the sidewalk, when you can buy produce and flowers (Sat 10am–5pm) or antiques and junk (Sun 10am–5pm). On either side of the market along 7th Street, delis, coffeeshops, and antique and clothing stores make this one of the more appealing hangouts on the Hill – though like Pennsylvania Avenue SE, the place is best avoided after dark.

▲EASTERN MARKET

Union Station

50 Massachusetts Ave NE. The magnificent Beaux Arts structure of Union Station is a sight to behold. Some 20,000 square feet larger than New York's Grand Central Terminal, the station's monumental proportions are alive with skylights, marble detail, and statuary, culminating in a 96-foot-high coffered ceiling whose model was no less than ancient Rome's Baths of Diocletian. For five decades, Union Station sat at the head of an expanding railroad network, and hundreds of thousands of people arrived in the city by train, catching their first glimpse of the Capitol dome through the station's great arched doors – just as the wide-eyed James Stewart does at the beginning of Frank Capra's *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*. These days, Union Station is slowly recovering from several decades of automotive-age neglect but does feature a gallery food court, movie theater, stores, restaurants, money-exchange offices, car rental agencies, and ticket counters – along with an underground Metro station and active rail sheds for Amtrak and MARC trains.

National Postal Museum

Massachusetts Ave NE at N Capitol Ave ☎202/357-2700, ⓦwww.si.edu/postal. Daily 10am–5.30pm. One of the more obscure Smithsonian sites, the National Postal Museum is more engaging than you might expect. Done up in white Italian marble, the interior was the home of the City Post Office until 1986. Nowadays, its lower levels display the history of the US mail system with, naturally, many collections of stamps, as well as more elaborate exhibits showing archaic means of delivery like a rickety Concord coach and three biplanes hanging from the ceiling. You can also follow the first postal routes, such as the seventeenth-century King's Best Highway between New York and Boston, and check out artifacts from the Pony Express and creaky old mail coaches and other relics. Beyond this, photos and text trace the early racial makeup of the postal service, from the opportunities offered to blacks during Reconstruction to the segregation of the early twentieth century. Elsewhere, there are oddball castoffs such as a collection of weird and wonderful rural mailboxes, including one peculiar example made from car mufflers in the shape of a crude tin man.

Shops

Art and Soul

225 Pennsylvania Ave SE ☎202/548-0105. Handmade clothes and contemporary American ceramics, toys, and crafts by more than two hundred regional artists.

Backstage
545 8th St SE ☎202/544-5744. Whether you're at a loss on Halloween or looking for an elaborate disguise, this costume shop – teeming with wigs, boas, and catsuits – just may be able to help. Also features books on the theater and make-up, masks, and dance shoes.

Political Americana
50 Massachusetts Ave NE ☎202/547-1685. Located in Union Station, a good spot to pick up everything from historic and topical buttons and bumper stickers to gifts, books, and videos on every side of the political divide.

Cafés

Bread and Chocolate
666 Pennsylvania Ave SE ☎202/547-2875. Popular bakery and coffeehouse with street-view seating and solid sandwiches, located along this strip's main people-watching zone.

The Market Lunch
Eastern Market, 7th St SE ☎202/547-8444. Eat-and-go market-counter meals – sandwiches and fries, salads, crab cakes, and fish platters – served to a loyal band of local shoppers and suit-and-tie staffers. Arrive early for lunch or you'll be waiting in line.

Murky Coffee
660 Pennsylvania Ave SE ☎202/546-5228. Styled after Italian brew-making, espresso drinks that pack an authentic punch and are straight-up black – not murky. Also sells pastries and coffee by the pound.

Restaurants

Cafe Berlin
322 Massachusetts Ave NE ☎202/543-7656. The perfect, not-too-pricey spot to fill up on your favorite gut-busting German food, with all the staples from pork Jaegerschnitzel and savory potato pancakes to spiced herring with onions and apples.

Las Placitas
517 8th St SE ☎202/543-3700. Great-value Mexican standards and Salvadoran specials pack the tables nightly at this no-nonsense eatery. Another Capitol Hill branch at 723 8th St SE (☎202/546-9340).

The Monocle
107 D St NE ☎202/546-4488. Although some criticize this elegant, somewhat pricey saloon-bar-restaurant as stuffy,

▼UNION STATION

that's likely what draws the congressional patrons, who duck in for savory crab cakes, steaks, and the like in between votes.

Mr Henry's

601 Pennsylvania Ave SE ⓣ202/546-8412. Saloon and restaurant with outside patio, charcoal grill, and loyal gay crowd. Even the most expensive choices – the steak and shrimp plates – are typically below $10.

Two Quail

320 Massachusetts Ave NE ⓣ202/543-8030. Spread over a trio of townhouses, this romantic little bistro serves a changing menu of California Cuisine-styled food, including dinner entrees such as Cornish game hen with chipotle sauce. Lunches are a deal at $10–15.

Bars

Bullfeathers

410 1st St SE ⓣ202/543-5005. Pol-watchers just may catch a sighting at this old-time Hill favorite, a dark and clubby spot with affordable beer. It's named for Teddy Roosevelt's favorite euphemism for bullshit during his White House days.

Capitol City Brewing Company

2 Massachusetts Ave NE ⓣ202/842-2337. Prime microbrewing turf, which offers average pub food but solid handcrafted beer, highlighted by the rich Amber Waves Ale and German-styled Capitol Kolsch and Prohibition Porter. Another branch in Old Downtown, 1100 New York Ave NW (ⓣ202/628-2222).

Capitol Lounge

229 Pennsylvania Ave SE ⓣ202/547-2098. More sophisticated than most of the Hill bars – with cigars and martinis in the downstairs bar – but there's still plenty of life up in the brick-walled saloon thanks to happy hours and colorful campaign memorabilia.

Hawk 'n' Dove

329 Pennsylvania Ave SE ⓣ202/543-3300. Famous old pub, a bit tatty at the edges now, hung with football pennants, bottles, and bric-a-brac. The young, loud crowd comes (depending on the night) for the cheap beer, half-price food, or Redskins football on TV.

Clubs and live music

Kelly's Irish Times

14 F St NW ⓣ202/543-5433. Colorful folk music sets the stage from Wednesday to Sunday nights at this boisterous Irish pub, which also features weekend club music on the downstairs dance floor.

Remington's

639 Pennsylvania Ave SE ⓣ202/543-3113, ⓦwww.remingtonswdc.com. Signature gay country-and-western club with four bars and two dance floors, where the events include cornpone singing competitions, spirited hoedowns, and "cowgirl"-themed drag pageants.

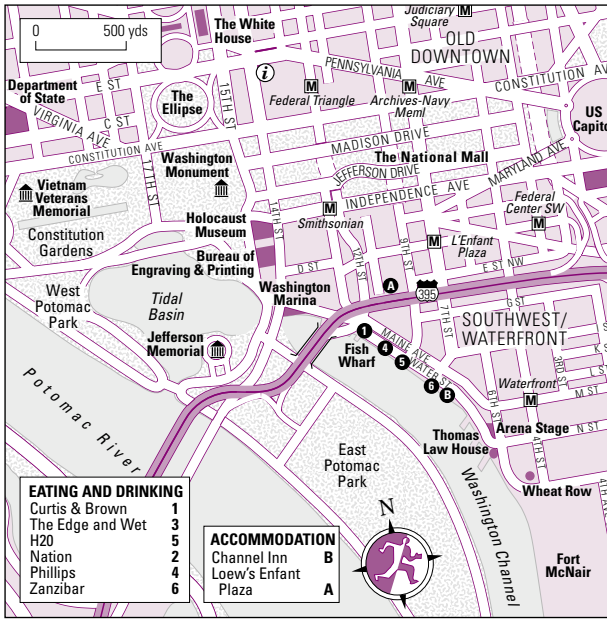
South of the Mall

Since the axis of the National Mall and Capitol Hill is the inevitable focus for most visitors, it's not surprising that other areas in the vicinity are often ignored. The area south of the Mall, along the Potomac and Anacostia rivers, is one such place – and it's easy to understand why: the assorted sights are not united by much other than their proximity to the water and to a handy collection of Metro stations. That said, several are well worth a look, including the Holocaust Museum and the Bureau of Engraving and Printing; the Fish Wharf on the Potomac waterfront; the Navy Museum with its cache of nautical artifacts; and the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site and Anacostia Museum in Anacostia. One of Washington's oldest neighborhoods, Anacostia is unfortunately also one of its most notorious – its pair of attractions are best reached by cab during the day from the Anacostia Metro station.

US Holocaust Memorial Museum

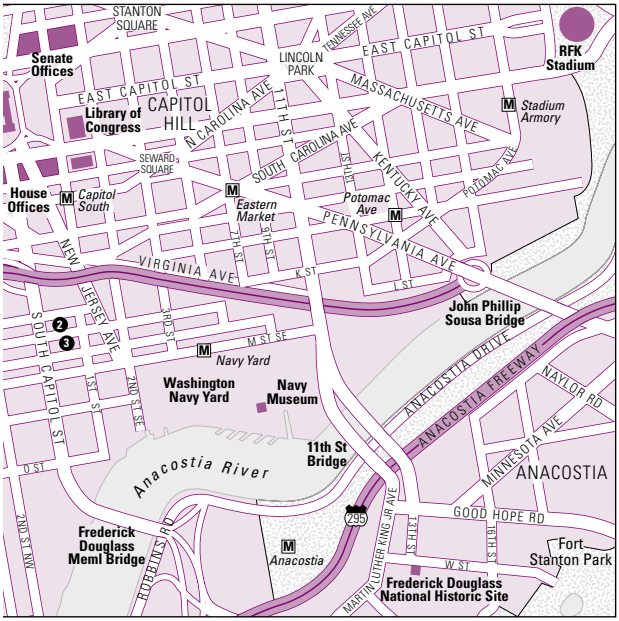
14th St between C St and Independence Ave SW ⓣ202/488-0400, ⓦwww.ushmm.org. Daily 10am–5.30pm. One of the city's most disturbing and unforgettable museums is the US Holocaust Memorial Museum, which opened in 1993 and has since been praised for both the penetrating character of its exhibits and its stark architecture, meant to recall a concentration camp in a stripped-down modernist idiom. The museum, of course, is a close-up examination of the persecution and murder of six million Jews by the Nazis and is aimed at those with both a full understanding or only a sketchy knowledge of this dark period in Western history. Note that despite its bleak subject matter, the museum is one of the more popular attractions in DC, and crowding can be a problem. Tickets for fixed entry times are available free (limited to four per person) from 10am each day at the 14th Street entrance; you can also book in advance through Tickets.com (ⓣ1-800/400-9373). If you arrive without a ticket any later than

▼US HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM



mid-morning, you're unlikely to get into the permanent exhibition – the centerpiece of the museum, focusing on the core events of the Holocaust. Beyond this, there are usually temporary displays that are open to all, covering such topics as children's lives under Nazi rule and the grim specter of "doctors" such as Josef Mengele.

Upon entry, each visitor is given an ID card, containing biographical notes of a real Holocaust victim, whose fortunes are followed as the museum unfolds. The permanent exhibition is spread over the second, third, and fourth floors; you start at the top and work your way down, proceeding through the nightmarish history of Europe in the 1930s and on to World War II, when Adolf Hitler and his henchmen carried out their plans for the "Thousand Year Reich" though the massacre of millions of Jews and other victims, including gypsies, gays, racial minorities, Slavs, and the mentally and physically disabled. This horrifying story unfolds as you continue downward (ending with Hitler's genocidal attempt at a "Final Solution"), and the dark mood is reflected by the museum's design, overseen in part by Holocaust survivors. Half-lit chambers, a floor of ghetto cobblestones, an obscenely cramped barracks building, and an external roofline that resembles the guard towers of a concentration camp all add to the overwhelming feeling of oppression. The themed displays are a mix of personal possessions and photographs alongside historical montages and video presentations, before which visitors stand visibly moved.



Bureau of Engraving and Printing

14th and C sts SW ☎202/622-2000, ⓦwww.moneyfactory.com. Mon–Fri 10am–2pm. The lone worthwhile entry among the bureaucratic superstructures east of 14th Street and south of Independence Avenue may sound a bit dry, but the Bureau offers up one of DC's most popular tours, featuring a twenty-minute look at what is, effectively, a large printing plant. The difference is that the presses here crank out millions of dollars in currency every day, $120 billion a year (95 percent of which is replacement currency for money already in circulation). As you will no doubt learn in an introductory video, the Bureau is the federal agency for designing and printing all US currency, government securities, and postage stamps. It was established in 1862, when Abraham Lincoln empowered six employees to start up business in the attic of the Treasury Building. By 1877 all US currency was produced by the Bureau, which finally moved into this building in 1914. Nowadays, almost three thousand employees work either here or at a second plant in Fort Worth, Texas. The style of US currency has, of course, changed radically in the last 140 years, and bills these days are being redesigned with all manner of newfangled high-tech methods to deter counterfeiters – color-changing inks, hidden security stamps, watermarks, and microprinting.

Your perspective on all this money-making comes through claustrophobic viewing galleries looking down upon the printing presses. It's a surprisingly low-tech operation: hand-engraved

▲FISH WHARF

dyes are used to create intaglio steel plates, from which the bills are printed in sheets of 32, checked for defects, and loaded into large barrows. On a separate press, they're then overprinted with serial numbers and seals, sliced up into single bills by ordinary paper cutters, and stacked into "bricks" of four thousand notes before being sent out to the twelve Federal Reserve Districts, which issue the notes to local banks. It's little wonder the presses never stop: the lowliest bill, the humble dollar, lasts an average of no more than eighteen months.

The waterfront

Running due southeast from 14th Street along the Washington channel of the Potomac River, the DC waterfront was originally built around a series of haphazardly developed commercial buildings and piers, which grew up at some remove from the central city in the nineteenth century. These were finally redeveloped during the 1960s. Although the area is hardly a must-see, it is worthwhile for a stroll or a bite. Most people come here to eat seafood at one of the restaurants that line the waters of the Channel, along Maine Avenue or the parallel Water Street SW, west of 7th; all have terraces and patios with views across to East Potomac Park. The district even has its own Metro stop, at 4th and M, which provides for much easier access than if you try to arrive on foot, dodging the maelstrom of automotive traffic around the freeways southeast of the Tidal Basin.

Washington Marina and Fish Wharf

Beyond restaurants, the two main waterfront attractions are located next to each other, near the towering Francis Case Bridge, which crosses the Channel to the pleasant, if isolated, East Potomac Park. North of the bridge, a collection of pricey nautical craft is on view at the Washington Marina, which provides a good backdrop for various summer fairs and events, though is typically off limits to landlubbers. South of the bridge lies the Fish Wharf

(daily 7.30am–8pm), the oldest continuously operated fish market in America, conducted from permanently docked boats and trailers. The fishmongers will do their best to sell you their wares, even if you're not buying, and display huge trays of Chesapeake Bay fish, shrimp, clams, oysters, and, especially, Maryland blue crabs, which you can buy live or steamed. There's nowhere to sit and eat, but there's nothing to stop you from heading down the waterside promenade for a picnic.

Thomas Law House and Wheat Row

N and 6th sts SW and 1315–1321 4th St SW, respectively. There are a few pockets of interesting architecture near the waterfront, best seen opposite the Spirit Cruises dock, where the Thomas Law House (built c.1794–96) is one of DC's oldest surviving federal townhouses and has a stately presence that belies its owner's bankruptcy shortly after he built it. If you cut through past here to 4th Street, you can see another strip of federal houses built around the same time, called Wheat Row and maintained within the Harbor Square development at 4th between N and O streets. The structures are elegant gems of early-American design and are also unique for being local survivors of 1960s urban renewal (the rest of the neighborhood is blandly modern) as well as some of the first edifices built on speculation, with the promise of rising property values to come. Unfortunately, no historic buildings along here are open to the public, and the same is true with Fort McNair, a few blocks south, famous as the spot where a penitentiary housed the conspirators in the Lincoln assassination as they were imprisoned, tried, and executed.

Navy Yard and Navy Museum

805 Kidder Breese St SE ☎202/433-4882, ⓦwww.history.navy.mil. Mon–Fri 9am–4pm, Sat & Sun 10am–5pm. The Navy Yard is the US Navy's oldest shore establishment, building ships and producing weaponry continuously from 1799 until 1961. The Yard's activity was interrupted only in 1812 when the commander was ordered to burn the base to prevent the British capturing it. Since the 1960s the base has acted as a naval supply and administrative center and would be of little interest were it not for its splendid Navy Museum. Unless you're an active member of the military, to get access you must reserve in advance at the above telephone number; once you arrive in the Yard, you can find the museum housed in Building 76.

This focused and illuminating collection traces the history of the US Navy from its foundation in 1794, in response to attacks on American ships by Barbary pirates. Dress uniforms, ship figureheads, vicious cat-o'-nine-tail whips, and a walk-through frigate gun-

▼NAVY MUSEUM

deck all illustrate the gradual development of the Navy as a fighting force, while separate galleries deal with every conflict the Navy has taken part in. A painting illustrates the exploits of early naval hero Stephen Decatur (see p.91), who captured three boats during hand-to-hand fighting at Tripoli in 1804. The World War II displays are particularly affecting, featuring anti-aircraft guns in which you can sit, crackly archival film footage, and an account of the sinking by a Japanese destroyer of a PT109 patrol boat – the famous incident in which future president John Kennedy swam ashore towing the boat's badly burned engineer. Also meriting a look is the *USS Barry*, a destroyer docked outside the museum, whose mess room, bridge, and quarters are open to the public.

Frederick Douglass National Historic Site

1411 W St SE ⓣ202/426-5961, ⓦwww.nps.gov/frdo. Daily May–Sept 9am–5pm, Oct–April 9am–4pm. An undeniable attraction if you're at all interested in American history, and deserving of the effort you'll need to make to get to it (by car, Metro, or taxi), the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site occupies the home of the famed orator and abolitionist leader. He was 60 in 1877 when he moved to this white brick house in Anacostia, and its mixed Gothic Revival–Italianate style, with 21 rooms and 15 acres, was typical of the quality homes built in Uniontown twenty years earlier – though at that time they were restricted to whites. Douglass, newly appointed US marshal in DC, was the first to break the racial ban, paying $6700 for the property and living out the last eighteen years of his life here.

You can reserve a place on one of the free hourly tours of the house by calling ⓣ1-800/967-2283 ($2 handling fee). The tours begin in the visitor center below the house, where a short docudrama and a few static exhibits fill you in on Douglass's life. You're then led up the steep green hill to the home itself, where Douglass entertained all the leading abolitionists and suffragists of the day, talking in the parlors or eating in the dining room.

▼FREDERICK DOUGLASS NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Many brought him mementos, which are now on display – there's President Lincoln's cane, given to Douglass by Mary Todd Lincoln, and a desk and chair from Harriet Beecher Stowe. Most of the fixtures and fittings are original and give a fair idea of middle-class life in late nineteenth-century Washington. Douglass kept chickens and goats outside in the gardens, and the only water source was a rainwater pump, but inside the kitchen the domestic staff had access to all the latest technology, like the Universal clothes wringer. Douglass himself worked either in his study, surrounded by hundreds of books, or in the outdoor "Growlery" – a rudimentary stone cabin he used for solitary contemplation.

Anacostia Museum

1901 Fort Place SE ⓣ202/287-2061, ⓦwww.si.edu/anacostia. Daily 10am–5pm. Though well off the beaten path, the Smithsonian's Anacostia Museum certainly rewards a visit. Still, don't even think about walking here from the Anacostia Metro stop; buses #W2 or #W3 from Howard Road (outside the Metro) stop at the museum, though it's less unnerving to come by taxi. The museum's official mission, as the Center for African American History and Culture, is to devote itself to recording and displaying the life of blacks in America, but particularly the upper South (DC, Maryland, Virginia, and the Carolinas). The museum's permanent collection is mostly historical in nature, holding documents, photographs, books, and objects such as the fur coat opera singer Marian Anderson wore to her famed 1939 concert on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, after she was denied permission to sing at Constitution Hall by the racially hidebound Daughters of the American Revolution. There's also a small art collection – a sampling of paintings and prints by local artists like Samella Lewis, John Robinson, and Elena Bland; works by folk artist Leslie Payne; and a contemporary quilt collection that touches on both folk and formal art. The museum is perhaps best known, however, for its themed temporary exhibitions (held here and at the Arts and Industries Building on the Mall). Call or check the website to see what's on, or ask for details at the Smithsonian Castle on the Mall (see p.66). Keep in mind that during the installation of new exhibits, the museum may be closed for weeks at a time or longer.

▼ANACOSTIA MUSEUM

Restaurants

Custis & Brown

1200 Maine Ave SW ☎202/484-0168. A signature Fish Wharf seafood stand serving giant fried-fish sandwiches, steamed spiced shrimp, crab, and lobster, clam chowder, and oyster platters to go – all at giveaway prices. Great for a lunch or picnic overlooking the Washington Channel.

H2O

800 Water St SW ☎202/484-6300. One of the few decent choices in an area not known for its eateries, a marina restaurant with swanky, newly remodeled decor, and attached lounge and stylish club. The appealing river view is the main attraction, along with tasteful, semi-expensive entrees of crab cakes, steak, and pasta.

Phillips

900 Water St SW ☎202/488-8515. Another popular seafood spot on the tour-bus circuit, mainly worthwhile for those looking to pack away big, reasonably priced helpings of fish and crab from the lunch, dinner, and weekend brunch buffets. Good location not far from the Fish Wharf.

Clubs and live music

The Edge and Wet

56 L St SE ☎202/488-1200, ⓦwww.edgewet.com. Frenetic gay-oriented club with multiple bars and special dance nights – the Edge is home to Gay Black Pride, while Wet has foam parties, nude dancing, and other activities.

Nation

1015 Half St SE ☎202/554-1500, ⓦwww.velvetnation.com. A hot, two-floored club that draws revelers to a dicey part of town. During the week you're apt to hear a broad selection of bands and artists, while the weekend brings dance nights, highlighted by superstar DJs at Velvet Nation on Saturdays.

Zanzibar on the Waterfront

700 Water St SW ☎202/554-9100. Waterfront restaurant with a view draws the international crowd with live bands and DJs spinning salsa, R&B, reggae, and jazz. Also not a bad spot to watch a sunset.

Performing arts

Arena Stage

1101 6th St SW ☎202/554-9066, ⓦwww.arenastage.org. One of the most popular and well-respected of DC's major theatrical institutions and a centerpiece of waterfront redevelopment. Presents an eclectic selection of modern, classical, musical, and avant-garde works on its three stages.

RFK Stadium

2400 E Capitol St SE ☎202/547-9077. The former home of the Washington Redskins is the place to see DC United soccer games and in 2005 will become the temporary home of Washington's new baseball team (relocated from Montreal).

The White House and Foggy Bottom

The White House is one of Washington's star attractions, and countless throngs proceed past its gates every year, trying to sneak a peek at the commander in chief. Directly aligned with the Jefferson Memorial, and almost so with the Washington Monument, the White House was always intended to be a focal point of the District, even though these days the current occupants do their best to keep people at a distance. The adjacent area known as Foggy Bottom has much to offer by way of culture and history. Along with being a center for international relations (the State Department, World Bank, and IMF are located here), it has some excellent museums and classic architecture, as well as the Kennedy Center and Watergate Complex.

The White House

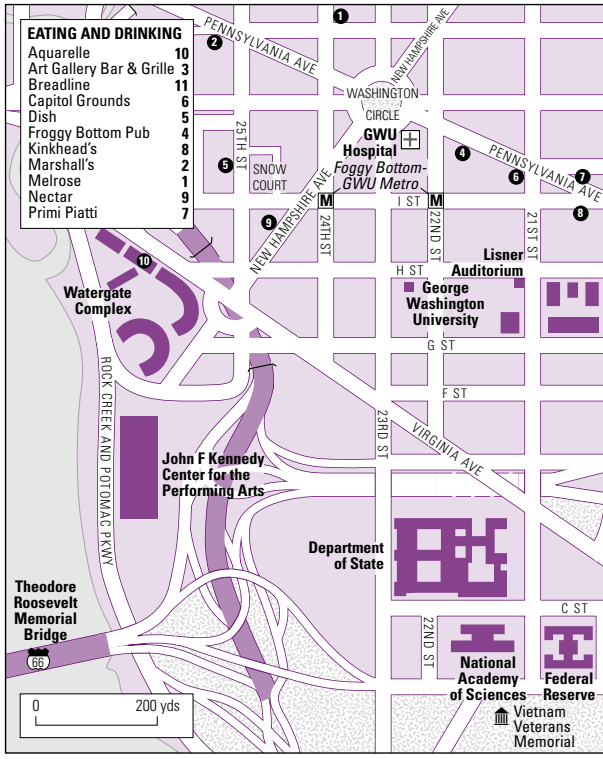
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW ☎202/456-7041, ⓦwww.whitehouse.gov. Tues–Sat 7.30–11.30am. The core of the self-guided tour of the White House concentrates on the rooms on the ground and state (principal) floors. The Oval Office, family apartments, and private offices on the second and third floors are off-limits; posted guards make sure you don't stray from the designated route. Once inside, your group is allowed to wander one-way through or past a half-dozen furnished rooms – but in many rooms you can't get close enough to appreciate the paintings or the furniture. Most people are outside again well within thirty minutes. Visitors enter the East Wing from the ground floor and traipse first past the Federal-style Library, paneled in timbers

Visiting the White House

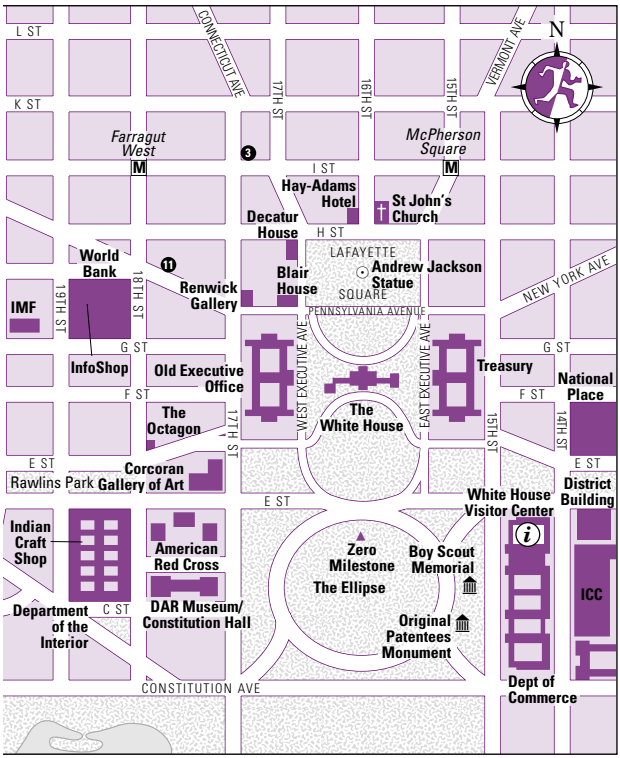
Increasing levels of national security have meant that, with each year that passes since 9/11, regulations for visitors to the White House have only gotten stiffer. Currently, you must reserve tours a month in advance through your Congressional member (representative or senator), and only parties of ten or more are granted access. If you're a foreign citizen, you must seek access through your own embassy in Washington DC; see p.193 for a list. Before your scheduled tour date, call ahead to verify that daily schedules have not changed in the interim since you made the reservation. For more information on this and other touring opportunities in the District (and to check schedules and security requirements) head to the White House Visitor Center, which is housed within the Department of Commerce, located several blocks southeast of the White House at 1450 Pennsylvania Ave NW ☎202/208-1631, ⓦwww.nps.gov/whho (daily 7.30am–4pm).

▲THE WHITE HOUSE

rescued from a mid-nineteenth-century refit and housing 2700 books by American authors. Opposite is the Vermeil Room, once a billiard room but now named for its extensive collection of silver gilt; the portraits are of recent First Ladies. From here the tour moves upstairs to the State Floor, where the



first stop is the East Room, the largest in the White House, which has been open to the public since the days of Andrew Jackson. Used in the past for weddings and other ceremonies, it's on a grand scale, with long yellow drapes, a brown marble fireplace, and turn-of-the-century glass chandeliers. Between the fireplaces hangs the one major artwork on display: Gilbert Stuart's celebrated 1797 portrait of George Washington, rescued from the flames by Dolley Madison when the British burned the White House. The last rooms on the tour are more intimate in scale. The Green Room, its walls lined in silk, was Jefferson's dining room and JFK's favorite in the entire house. Portraits line the walls, Dolley Madison's French candlesticks are on the mantelpiece, and a fine matching green dinner service occupies the cabinet. The adjacent, oval Blue Room, with its ornate French furniture, witnessed the marriage of Grover Cleveland in 1886, the only time a president has been married in the White House. The Red Room is the smallest of the lot, decorated in early nineteenth-century Empire style and sporting attractive inlaid oak doors. The painted-oak-paneled State Dining Room harks back to the



White House architecture

From the outset, the White House was to be the focal point of the executive branch of government, connected to the proposed US Capitol by the broad diagonal sweep of Pennsylvania Avenue. Its design was thrown open to an architectural competition in 1792, and the winner, Irish immigrant and professional builder James Hoban, picked up a $500 prize for his Neoclassical design, which was influenced by the Georgian manor houses of Dublin. It met President Washington's requirement for a mansion that would command respect without being extravagant and monarchical, but the house of gray Virginia sandstone wasn't completed in time to house Washington, whose second term in office ended in 1797. Instead, John Adams was the first presidential occupant, moving into the unfinished structure in 1800. East and west terraces were built during the administration of Thomas Jefferson, who had entered the original design competition under an assumed name; he also installed the first water closets and introduced a French chef to the house. Under James Madison, the interior was redecorated by Capitol architect Benjamin Latrobe, but occupying British forces burned down the mansion in August 1814, forcing Madison and his wife to flee. Hoban was put in charge of its reconstruction after the war and the mansion was again ready for occupation in 1817, but with one significant change: to conceal fire damage to the exterior, the house was painted white.

Throughout the nineteenth century, the White House was decorated, added to, and improved with each new occupant: Andrew Jackson had the first indoor bathroom installed in 1833; Theodore Roosevelt added elevators and an executive West Wing, which incorporated the president's personal Oval Office; the famous Rose Garden was planted outside the Oval Office in 1913; an entire residential third floor was added in 1927, and an East Wing followed in the 1940s. However, all these renovations were completed while the first family of the day was in residence. This meant that changes tended to be finished too quickly, so that by 1948 the entire building was on the verge of collapse. Harry Truman had to move into nearby Blair House for four years while the structure was stabilized; new foundations were laid, all the rooms were dismantled, and a modern steel frame inserted. Since then there have been no significant alterations – unless you count Nixon's bowling alley, Ford's outdoor pool, Carter's solar panels (though these were removed by Reagan), and Clinton's jogging track.

East Room in scale and style and hosts banquets for important guests. The tour loops back through the cross halls, and you exit on the north side of the White House.

The South Lawn

The White House is surrounded by greenery, but its most famous patch is the South Lawn, that expansive grassy stretch that helps provide such iconic views of the White House and which hosts its most famous outside event. The Easter Egg Roll is a longstanding tradition that

▼ANDREW JACKSON STATUE, LAFAYETTE SQUARE

began in 1878 and has continued ever since, though occasionally interrupted by war and foul weather. A White House staffer dressed as the Easter bunny is usually at the scene, along with various department heads reading kids' stories and trying to act goofy. To get your free tickets for this event – which occurs the Monday after Easter – drop by the Ellipse Visitor Center at 15th and E streets at 7.30am on the day of the Roll or on the Saturday before it. Tickets are first-come, first-served, and run out quickly.

The Ellipse

The Ellipse, a large grassy expanse between the White House and the Washington Monument, is a centerpiece of the park plan for the District and offers a few low-key attractions. On the northern edge, the Zero Milestone marks the point from which all distances on US highways are measured. Here, too, is the National Christmas Tree, a Colorado Blue Spruce that's been here since 1978 and is lit by the president every year to mark the start of the holiday season. On the east (15th St) side of the Ellipse, a bronze boy scout marks the site of the Boy Scout Memorial, while nearby, the simple granite Monument to the Original Patentees commemorates the eighteenth-century landowners who ceded land so that the city could be built.

Lafayette Square

Lafayette Square could be considered an unofficial extension of the mansion itself – the place where former inhabitant Andrew Jackson is deified in statue on horseback, and where political protestors can expect a spot on the nightly news if they put on a boisterous enough demonstration. In the twentieth century, four corner statues of foreign-born Revolutionary generals were added, the most famous the Marquis de Lafayette, the French officer who raised an army on behalf of the American colonists and was made a US general at the age of 19. His statue shows him flanked by French admirals and being handed a sword by a female nude, symbolizing America. At the southwestern corner of Lafayette Square, the **Blair House** was where Robert E. Lee was offered – and refused – the command of the Union Army. It has served as the presidential guest house since the 1940s, and both the Trumans and Clintons used it while White House renovations were in progress.

▼DECATUR HOUSE

Decatur House

1610 H St NW ⓣ202/842-0920, ⓦwww.decaturhouse.org. Tues–Sat 10am–5pm, Sun noon–4pm. Donation.

The oldest house on Lafayette Square is Decatur House. Dating from 1819, this red-brick house was built by Benjamin Latrobe

(who had already worked on the White House) for Stephen Decatur, a young American hero who performed with distinction as a navy captain in the War of 1812. The Federal-style first floor, studded with naval memorabilia, is decorated in the elegant fashion of the day. Most of the other period rooms have inlaid floors, furnishings, and decorative arts in the Victorian style – though much of the house is now being restored to its early-American splendor with ongoing renovations. If the museum is open (it's closed several weeks during the year for preservation work), you can take a closer look at it on hourly guided tours (30–45min) that begin fifteen minutes after the hour.

St John's Church

1525 H St NW ☎202/347-8766, ⓦwww.stjohns-dc.org. Mon–Sat 10.30am–2.30pm. Free tours after 11am Sun service. Across H Street from Lafayette Park, the tiny, yellow St John's Church dates from 1816.

▼ST JOHN'S CHURCH

Benjamin Latrobe again did the honors, providing the neighborhood with a handsome domed Episcopal church in the form of a Greek cross, with appealing half-moon windows in the upper gallery of the intimately proportioned interior. Unsurprisingly, St John's is commonly known as the "Church of the Presidents"; all since Madison have visited – sitting in the special pew (no. 54) reserved for them – and when an incumbent dies in office the bells of St John's ring out across the city. Note also the handsome 1836 building just east of the church, a stately edifice with a grand French Second Empire facade, which now serves as a parish building but in the nineteenth century was the site of the British Embassy.

Hay-Adams Hotel

H and 16th sts ☎202/638-6600, ⓦwww.hayadams.com. Across the street from the church, the Renaissance Revival gem of the *Hay-Adams Hotel* (see review, p.180) impresses with its elegant arches and columns, and sits on the former site of the townhouses of statesman John Hay and his friend, historian and author Henry Adams. Their adjacent homes were the site of glittering soirees attended by all the Washington swells, and since 1927 the hotel has been at the heart of Washington politicking and fundraising.

Old Executive Office Building and Treasury Department

On either side of the White House sit two of the most imposing federal buildings in the District, the Old Executive Office Building to the west and the Treasury Department to the east. The Executive is a French Empire riot of hundreds of

▲GRAND SALON, RENWICK GALLERY

free-standing columns, tall and thin chimneys, a copper mansard roof, pediments, porticos, and various stone flourishes – infamous as the place where Watergate conspirators plotted their deeds and Iran-Contra henchmen shredded documents. By contrast, the Treasury is a colossal work of Neoclassicism, all monumental columns and Greek Revival style. However, for all their pretension and grandeur, respectively, both buildings have been off-limits to the public since 9/11. The Executive offices are only accessible if you can persuade your Congressional representative to get you inside for a look, while the Treasury may be open at some point after it completes its ongoing structural renovations.

Renwick Gallery

Pennsylvania Ave at 17th St NW ⓣ202/633-2850, ⓦamericanart.si.edu. Daily 10am–5.30pm. The French style of the Old Executive Office Building was directly influenced by the earlier, smaller, and much more harmonious Renwick Gallery. Built by James Renwick (architect of the Smithsonian Castle) in 1859, the red-brick building served first as the original Corcoran Gallery (see opposite), then was the site of the US Court of Claims, until it was restored in the 1960s by the Smithsonian, which now uses it to display selections of American art.

The building's ornate design reaches its apogee in the deep-red Grand Salon on the upper floor, a soaring parlor preserved in the style of the Gilded Age, featuring windows draped in striped damask, velvet-covered benches, marble-topped cabinets, and wood-and-glass display cases. Even better, with the National Museum of American Art itself closed until 2006, the Grand Salon now features many of its finest works and showcases them in the Belle Epoque style – hung floor-to-ceiling, three to five pictures high. Although your neck may be sore from all the craning, the effect is suitably monumental, and there are almost too many classic works to see in one place. Some of the highlights include portraits by Gilbert Stuart, John S. Copley, and John Singer Sargent; huge landscapes like that of Yellowstone by Thomas Moran; Albert Pinkham Ryder's dark and moody oils; and Frederic Church's entrancing *Aurora Borealis*.

Other galleries are devoted to American crafts – mostly modern jewelry and furniture but also sculpture, ceramics, and applied art – while the first floor hosts temporary exhibits.

Corcoran Gallery of Art

500 17th St NW ⓣ202/639-1700, ⓦwww.corcoran.org. Wed–Mon 10am–5pm, Thurs closes at 9pm. $5. A treasure trove of culture, the Corco-

▲CORCORAN GALLERY

ran Gallery's American holdings alone include more than three thousand paintings, colonial to contemporary, plus Neoclassical sculpture and modern photography, prints, and drawings. Over the years, the permanent collection has expanded considerably to include European works, Greek antiquities, and medieval tapestries. A huge new wing in the works – a flowing, sculptural addition designed by Frank Gehry – will go a long way toward accommodating the museum's collection.

For European art, some of the most familiar names hang in the Clark Landing, where you're likely to find mid-level paintings by Degas, Renoir, Monet, and Pissarro. Other works include serviceable French and English paintings of the seventeenth to nineteenth centuries, some outstanding Italian majolica plates depicting mythological scenes, and two large, allegorical wool-and-silk French tapestries. However, the gallery's main European holding is not painting but the room known as the Salon Doré (Gilded Room), which originally formed part of an eighteenth-century Parisian home, the Hôtel de Clermont. Framed mirrors (flanked by medallion-holding cherubs) make it seem larger than it actually is; the floor-to-ceiling hand-carved wood paneling, gold-leaf decor, and ceiling murals are both intricate and sweeping.

The bulk of the American art is usually on the second floor. The gallery possesses a fine collection of grand landscapes, starting with the expansive *Niagara* (1857) by Frederic Edwin Church and Albert Bierstadt's dramatic *The Last of the Buffalo* (1889). In contrast is Thomas Cole's *The Return* (1837), a mythical medieval scene. One room is usually devoted to nineteenth-century portraiture, with formal studies by renowned artists like John Trumbull and Charles Bird King, while the gallery's most notorious piece of sculpture is Hiram Powers' *The Greek Slave* (1846), whose manacled hands and simple nudity so outraged critical sensibilities that women visitors were prevented from viewing the statue while there were men in the room. Moving into late nineteenth-century art, the gallery holds works by John Singer Sargent, Thomas Eakins, and Mary Cassatt, while pre-World War II paintings include those by Childe Hassam, George Bellows, and Edward Hopper, whose yachting picture *Ground Swell* (1939) adds a splash of color along with a hint of

menace. Depending on space, contemporary American art gets a glance, too, with examples from big names such as Lichtenstein, Warhol, and de Kooning.

The Octagon

1799 New York Ave NW ⓣ202/638-3105, ⓦwww.theoctagon.org. Tues–Sun 10am–4.30pm. $3. One of the District's oldest homes, dating from 1800, the Octagon does not in fact have eight sides (debate continues as to what the name actually means). It's a classic structure loosely adapted from the Georgian style, with curving interior walls and closet doors, lovely spiral staircase, and several period rooms open for touring. Moreover, there's also an accessible basement, to give you a hint of the kind of drudgery servants and slaves underwent while the house owners lived in splendor above. Now owned by the American Architectural Foundation, the house museum has long been associated with Washington history; having barely survived the flames of the War of 1812, the house later hosted the signing of the Treaty of Ghent that ended the war.

▼THE OCTAGON

DAR Museum

1776 D St NW ⓣ202/879-3241, ⓦwww.dar.org/museum. Mon–Fri 9am–4pm, Sat 9am–5pm. Tours Mon–Fri 10am–2.30pm, Sat 9am–4.30pm. The conservative, patriotic organization Daughters of the American Revolution is unfortunately best known for being the group that, in 1939, denied black singer Marian Anderson the right to sing in its Constitution Hall (nearby on 18th St; see p.99) – a milestone in the civil-rights struggle. Less familiar is the group's curious museum, a hodgepodge of embroidered samplers and quilts, silverware, toys, kitchenware, glass, crockery, and earthenware – much of it dating to the Revolutionary and Federal periods. What they're most proud of, however, are the State Rooms, a collection of 31 period salons, mainly decorated with pre-1850 furnishings, each representing a different state or region. The New England room, for example, contains an original lacquered wooden tea chest retrieved from Boston Harbor after the Tea Party in 1773; the California an adobe house interior; and the New Jersey a set of furnishings fashioned from the wreck of a British frigate sunk off the coast during the Revolutionary War – the overly elaborate chandelier was made from the melted-down anchor.

Department of the Interior Museum

1849 C St NW ⓣ202/208-4743, ⓦwww.doi.gov/museum. Mon–Fri 8.30am–4.30pm. Reserve in advance for tours. The Department of the Interior is one of the

many big bureaucratic buildings that crowd the part of town west of the White House known as Foggy Bottom. Unlike most such buildings, which are generally closed to the public and offer little of interest, the DOI offers one signature sight worth a look. Its wood-paneled museum was opened in 1938 and is still very much of that era: rich with fossil and mineral samples, stuffed bison heads, old saddles, and paintings by nineteenth-century surveyors of the West – not to mention five elaborate dioramas featuring the likes of an Oklahoma land office, a coal mine explosion, and a frontier fort. There are also regularly changing special exhibitions of photography, paintings, or sculpture, much of it drawn from the museum's huge stock of 145 million items.

Department of State

C St between 21st and 23rd sts ☎202/647-3241, ⓦwww.state.gov. Tours by appointment only Mon–Fri 9.30am, 10.30am, & 2.45pm. No government bureaucracy is more synonymous with Foggy Bottom than the Department of State, and it's hard to see at first glance why anyone would be interested in venturing into this massive hulk; however, the chance to see the Diplomatic Reception Rooms provides one reason. During the 1960s, many of the chambers were redecorated and refurnished to become suitable for the reception of diplomats and visiting heads of state. In came a wealth of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century paintings, decor, and furniture – including the desk on which the Treaty of Paris, which ended the War of Independence, was signed. If you're delighted by the decorative arts, this is an essential stop; just make sure to reserve your place on a tour at least a month in advance.

Kennedy Center

2700 F St NW ☎202/467-4600, ⓦwww.kennedy-center.org. Tours Mon–Fri 10am–5pm, Sat & Sun 10am–1pm, reserve on ☎202/416-8340. Simply put, the white-marble colossus of the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts is the nation's apex of institutional culture. The National Symphony Orchestra, Washington Opera, and American Film Institute have their homes here, and there's an information desk on your way in, so you're free to wander around inside the theaters and concert halls (most are open to visitors 10am–1pm). Free 45-minute tours depart daily from Level A beneath the Opera House and cover most of the sights noted below. The Grand Foyer itself is 630ft long and 60ft high, lit by gargantuan crystal chandeliers with a seven-foot-high bronze bust of JFK. In addition, each of the theaters and concert halls also has its own artwork, from the Matisse tapestries outside the Opera House to the Barbara Hepworth sculpture in the Concert Hall. The Roof Terrace Level holds the Performing Arts Library of scripts and recordings (Tues–Fri 11am–8.30pm, Sat 10am–6pm); while you're up there, step out onto the terrace for scintillating views across the Potomac to Theodore Roosevelt Island, and west to Georgetown and north to the National Cathedral.

The Watergate Complex

2650 Virginia Ave NW. If there's a place that defines modern, political Washington, it's not the White House or the Capitol but the Watergate Complex.

▲JFK SCULPTURE, KENNEDY CENTER

This unassuming, curving, Italian-designed, mid-1960s residential and commercial complex – named for the flight of steps behind the Lincoln Memorial that leads down to the Potomac – has always been a much sought-after address, both for various foreign ambassadors and for top city brass. The Doles and Caspar Weinberger have maintained apartments here for years, while White House intern Monica Lewinsky lived here before scandal forced her from DC. It's also the site of the *Watergate* hotel (see p.180). But its inescapable association is with events in mid-1972. That June 17, five men were arrested during a break-in at Democratic National Committee headquarters, located at an office within the complex. The links between the burglars and the Committee to Re-Elect the President – and running up to the White House itself – led to the resignation of President Richard Nixon two years later.

Shops

Indian Craft Shop

Department of the Interior, room 1023, 1849 C St NW ☎202/208-4056. One of the city's best gift boutiques in a rather bleak stretch for shopping, where you can purchase rugs, crafts, beadwork, jewelry, and pottery by artisans from different native tribes in the US.

InfoShop

In the World Bank, 1818 H St NW ☎202/458-5454. For serious readers only: an excellent bookstore with a compendious selection of volumes on international relations, the Third World, environment, education, and finance, with many educational videos, too.

Cafés

Art Gallery Bar & Grille

1712 I St NW ☎202/298-6658. Soak up the Art Deco ambience or sit on the outdoor patio as you tuck into breakfast, salads, burgers, sandwiches, omelets, pizza, and grills. Nightly beer specials and jazz also on tap.

Breadline

1751 Pennsylvania Ave NW ☎202/822-8900. Prime bakery making DC's finest loaves and serving flatbreads, samosas, empanadas, and pizza, plus salads and tasty

pork sandwiches. Organic ingredients are the rule.

Café des Artistes

In the Corcoran Gallery of Art, 500 17th St NW ⓣ202/639-1786. Fine museum café with all the usual tasty salads and sandwiches, but highlighted by the signature Gospel Brunch ($24), a famed Sunday-morning event where you brunch to the sound of musical evangelizing.

Capitol Grounds

2100 Pennsylvania Ave NW ⓣ202/293-2057. Located near George Washington University, a lively spot for gourmet sandwiches and breakfast staples, plus good coffee and a convivial atmosphere. Also at 1455 Pennsylvania Ave NW (ⓣ202/637-9618).

Restaurants

Aquarelle

2650 Virginia Ave NW ⓣ202/965-2300. Located in the *Watergate* hotel, a reliable choice for Mediterranean cuisine in an upscale setting, with a complex blend of rice, pasta, and seafood dishes, with some good grilled offerings as well.

Dish

924 25th St NW ⓣ202/337-7600. Tasty New American versions of classic fare, from fruit cobbler and fried chicken to steaks and pot roast, with fresh and trendy ingredients, but carrying a heftier price tag than you'll find in any old diner.

Kinkead's

2000 Pennsylvania Ave NW ⓣ202/296-7700. One of DC's favorite, and priciest, restaurants, with a contemporary menu specializing in fish and seafood, from salmon stew to monkfish medallions. Since it's plenty popular and recently renovated, you'll need to book ahead.

Melrose

1201 24th St NW ⓣ202/955-3899. New-styled American-fusion food – Thai calamari, spicy duck confit, sea bass, etc – at this ultra-chic hotel restaurant that draws crowds of foodies and diners in the know.

▼KINKEAD'S

Nectar

George Washington University Inn, 824 New Hampshire Ave NW ☎202/337-6620. Quality hotel restaurant serving up delicious seafood and New American fare – from sushi and soft-shell crab to foie gras – though a bit on the expensive side at $25 per entree.

Primi Piatti

2013 I St NW ☎202/223-3600. Major-league Italian restaurant with a solid knack for creating savory gourmet pizzas, with ingredients such as goat cheese and prosciutto – and cheaper prices than the expensive meat-and-pasta dishes.

Bars

Froggy Bottom Pub

2142 Pennsylvania Ave NW ☎202/338-3000. Colorful, three-level bar catering to students at nearby George Washington University; worth a visit if you're interested in shooting pool, munching on cheap pub grub, and knocking back a good brew or three.

Marshall's

2524 L St NW ☎202/333-1155. Solid microbrews like Red Hook and beer faves like Guinness, plus a decent menu of steak, pasta, and seafood, make this upscale bar-and-grill a good spot to spend your time; the kitchen serves 'til midnight.

Performing arts

American Film Institute

2700 F St NW ☎202/785-4600, Ⓦwww.afi.com. $7. Kennedy Center film heavyweight with regular programs of art, foreign, and classic films, usually built around certain directors, countries, and themes, often with associated lectures and seminars.

DAR Constitution Hall

1776 D St NW ☎202/628-4780, Ⓦwww.dar.org/conthall. Widely known as one of the best concert halls in the city, only usurped in the 1960s by the Kennedy Center. Now hosts uneventful mainstream concerts of pop, country, and jazz acts.

Lisner Auditorium

730 21st St NW ☎202/994-1500. Regular classical and choral concerts on George Washington University campus; often quite good, sometimes free.

National Symphony Orchestra

2700 F St NW ☎1-800/444-1324, Ⓦwww.kennedy-center.org/nso. Performs in the Kennedy Center, serving up the big names in classical music under the baton of conductor Leonard Slatkin, who's best known for championing American composers.

Old Downtown and Federal Triangle

Until recently, Old Downtown was a pretty bleak place, blighted by crime and deserted at night, with little of interest to anyone other than architecture buffs. In recent years, though, the area has picked up, thanks to a steady flow of urban-renewal dollars, and offers an excellent range of chic restaurants, niche museums, fancy hotels, and other attractions. The same can't be said for the ten-square-block area known as Federal Triangle, where eight colossal government office buildings hog the duly geometric terrain. It's true the Triangle has its highlights – mainly the Old Post Office and the National Archives – but for most visitors it's little more than a huge buffer between Downtown and the National Mall.

Pennsylvania Avenue NW

Defining the border between Old Downtown and the Federal Triangle, Pennsylvania Avenue NW is one of the District's most famous roads, connecting the Capitol with the White House. In the original design, the avenue was supposed to allow for unimpeded views of both structures, but this changed when Andrew Jackson had the Treasury Building plunked down on the western end. Still, the avenue continues to provide a historic backdrop for the triumphal Inaugural Parade that takes the newly sworn-in president from the Capitol to his residence for the next four years. Thomas Jefferson led the first impromptu parade in 1805; James Madison made the ceremony official; and every president since has trundled up in some form of conveyance or another – except

▼PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE NW

EATING AND DRINKING
Andale 14
Café Mozart 1
D.A.'s RFD Washington 2
ESPN Zone 10
Harry's 13
Hunan Chinatown 4
Jaleo 12
John Harvard's 11
Old Ebbitt Grill 6
Red Sage 7
Reeve's Restaurant and Bakery 5
Sky Terrace 8
Ten Penh 15
Tony Cheng's 3
Tosca 9
1 National Museum of Women in the Arts
2 Arch
3 CHINATOWN
4 Wok and Roll (Surratt House)
5 Metro Center
6 McPherson Square
7 New York Ave Presbyterian Church
8 National Place
9 Petersen House
10 Warner Theatre
11 National Theatre
12 The Lansburgh (Shakespeare Theatre)
13 Pulaski Statue
14 Freedom Plaza
15 Old Post Office
16 Federal Triangle
17 Pershing Statue
18 Pershing Park
19 Franklin Statue
20 District Bldg
21 Ronald Reagan Bldg
22 EPA
23 Internal Revenue Service
24 Department of Justice
25 Federal Bureau of Investigation
26 Ford's Theatre
27 Intl Spy Museum
28 Old Patent Office
29 Martin Luther King Memorial Library
30 Hecht's
31 Washington Convention Center
32 Treasury Bldg
33 The White House
34 Sherman Statue
35 National Aquarium
36 Department of Commerce
37 The Ellipse
38 Olsson's Books And Records
39 Market Square
40 US Navy Meml
41 National Archives
42 General W S Hancock Statue
43 Sears House
44 Canadian Embassy
45 Federal Trade Commission
46 Andrew Mellon Fountain
47 Lincoln Statue
48 Marshall Statue
49 John Marshall Park
50 Municipal Center
51 US (Federal) Court House
52 Department of Labor
53 Pension Building (National Building Museum)
54 Old City Hall
55 Judiciary Square
56 National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial
57 Judiciary Square
58 Koshland Science Museum
59 Law Enforcement Officers Visitor Center
60 Hotel Monaco
61 MCI Center
62 Gallery Place-Chinatown
63 Archives-Navy Meml
64 Federal Triangle
65 NEW JERSEY AVE
66 1ST ST
67 2ND ST
68 3RD ST
69 4TH ST
70 5TH ST
71 6TH ST
72 7TH ST
73 8TH ST
74 9TH ST
75 10TH ST
76 11TH ST
77 12TH ST
78 13TH ST
79 14TH ST
80 15TH ST
81 I ST
82 H ST
83 G ST
84 F ST
85 E ST
86 G PLACE
87 D ST
88 C ST
89 NEW YORK AVE
90 PENNSYLVANIA AVE
91 MASSACHUSETTS AVE
92 VERMONT AVE
93 INDIANA AVE
94 LOUISIANA AVE
95 CONSTITUTION AVE
N
0
500 yds

Jimmy Carter who, famously, walked the sixteen long blocks to the White House.

Unless you're really into super-sized office blocks, most of the appealing architecture can be found on or around the north side of the street. Good examples include the preserved 1920s moviehouse of the Warner Theatre, just north at 13th and E streets (see p.115), and the turreted pink stone of the Sears House offices, at 633 Pennsylvania Ave NW. Nearby worthy statues honor Ben Franklin, at 14th Street, and World War I general John Pershing, at 12th Street. By contrast, the giant government buildings on the south side are notable mainly for their size: the Ronald Reagan Office Building, on 14th Street between Constitution and Pennsylvania avenues, is the second-largest federal structure in the US, while the alphabet-soup offices of the EPA, IRS, and FTC, from 12th to 6th streets, do little to make the government seem user-friendly.

▼WILLARD HOTEL

Willard Hotel

1401 Pennsylvania Ave NW ☎202/628-9100, ⓦwashington.intercontinental.com. Peering over the north side of Pershing Park at 14th Street stands one of the grandest of Washington hotels, the *Willard*, a District landmark for 150 years. Although hotels have existed on the site since the capital's earliest days, it was after 1850, when Henry Willard gave his name to the place, that the site became a haunt of statesmen, politicians, and top brass – not the least of whom was Abraham Lincoln, who dropped in before his first inauguration. The hotel's opulent lobby attracted countless profit-seekers anxious to press their issues on political leaders; it's even claimed that this provides the origin of the word "lobbyist." In 1901, Henry Hardenbergh – architect of some of New York's finest period hotels – was engaged to update the *Willard* and produced the splendid Beaux Arts building that stands today. It went out of business after the riots of 1968, but a thorough restoration in 1986 recaptured its early style, and the hotel – now the *Willard InterContinental* (see review p.182) – is once again a swank hangout for both the swells and well-heeled political leaders.

National Aquarium

14th St south of Pennsylvania Ave NW ☎202/482-2825, ⓦwww.nationalaquarium.com. Daily 9am–5pm. $3.50. Despite its impressive-sounding name and central location, the National Aquarium – the oldest aquarium in America – is one of the city's more disappointing sights. Quite unlike what you might expect, the National Aquarium sits in the bowels of the Department of Commerce, the fish-tank displays

seem very dated, and the atmosphere is stagnant and a bit depressing. Save your effort for the National Museum of Natural History, one long block south and east (see p.59).

Old Post Office

1100 Pennsylvania Ave NW ⓣ202/289-4224, ⓦwww.oldpostofficedc.com. Mon–Sat 10am–7pm, Sun noon–8pm, summer Mon–Sat until 9pm. The survival of this wondrous Romanesque Revival building owes more to the depressed real-estate market of the early twentieth century than it does to civic planners' flair for historic preservation. A longtime candidate for demolition, the onetime post office (which only served that function for fifteen years, from 1899 to 1914) has managed to persevere through the decades with its towering granite walls, which make it look suitably cathedral-like, and eye-popping seven-story atrium, now home to ethnic diners and various shops (see "Shops" and "Restaurants" at the end of the chapter). For a really appealing look at this monumental structure, take a free tour of the clock tower (Mon–Fri 9am–5.45pm, Sat & Sun 10am–5.45pm, summer Mon–Fri until 7.45pm; ⓣ202/606-8691, ⓦwww.nps.gov/opot), which is administered by the National Park Service and provides dramatic views of the District from its 270ft observation deck.

▲OLD POST OFFICE

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Pennsylvania Ave and 9th St NW.

Even if you had somehow never heard of the FBI, the presence of countless DC tourists wearing T-shirts emblazoned with that acronym would still get your attention. Just as eye-grabbing is the Bureau's giant concrete-Brutalist edifice, a clunky modern office that pales by comparison to the Neoclassical Department of Justice across the street. The FBI used to be a favorite spot for visitors with a taste for the *X-Files* and other such TV programs, but since 9/11 tours have been canceled, and the ongoing renovation of the building has kept it off-limits to nosy interlopers, T-shirts or not.

National Archives

700 Pennsylvania Ave NW ⓣ202/501-5000, guided tours ⓣ202/501-5205, ⓦwww.archives.gov. Daily 10am–5.30pm, summer until 9pm. The National Archives build-

▲FBI BUILDING

ing is one of the visual glories of Washington DC, with 72 ornate, 50ft Corinthian columns, plain walls supporting a dome 75ft above ground level, and a sculpted pediment topped by eagles. Even better, the Archives' collection of records governmental, private, and otherwise is of an almost unfathomable quantity: hundreds of millions of pages of paper documents, from war treaties to slave-ship manifests; seven million pictures; 120,000 reels of movie film; almost 200,000 sound recordings; eleven million maps and charts; and a quarter of a million other artifacts. If you're a researcher, you can apply for an official ID to access the collection; otherwise, what everyone comes to see is the Holy Trinity of American historical record – the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights – which are lined up in the magnificent marble Rotunda within state-of-the-art airtight containers filled with argon gas. The pages are, of course, sizable artifacts from the post-Colonial era, and are written in elegant calligraphy in closely spaced lines – which, given their faded ink, makes them very hard to read nowadays under the low light of the display cases. Other less familiar but significant documents relating to Western US expansion, law, and politics are on view alongside them. Seeing any of these documents can involve a long wait during summer hours, so try to come during non-peak times (winter, mornings, etc). Given that the Archives hold items as diverse as Napoleon's signature on the Louisiana Purchase, the World War II Japanese surrender document, the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT I) of 1972, and President Nixon's resignation letter, it's always worth checking the temporary exhibi-

▼DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, NATIONAL ARCHIVES

▲SCULPTED FRIEZE, US NAVY MEMORIAL

tions as well in the surrounding chambers. There are also plenty of valuable, intriguing documents and artifacts at the Archives' Maryland depository (to which a shuttle bus can take you), where you can hear selections from the Watergate tapes.

US Navy Memorial/Naval Heritage Center

701 Pennsylvania Ave NW ⓣ202/737-2300, ⓦwww.lonesailor.org. Heritage Center open Tues–Sat 9.30am–5pm, also Mon in summer. In a circular plaza covered by an etched representation of the world and circled by low, tiered granite walls lapped by running water, the US Navy Memorial features a statue of a single sailor, kit bag by his side, and inscribed naval quotations from the historic (Themistocles, architect of the Greek naval victory during the Persian Wars) to the tenuous (naval aviator Neil Armstrong's "That's one small step for man…"). In summer, the Navy Band holds a regular series of concerts here. Directly behind the memorial, the Naval Heritage Center can tell you more about the service with its changing exhibits and portraits honoring the various presidents who have served in the US Navy: JFK famously commanded a motor torpedo boat and was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal for heroism, but Johnson, Nixon, Ford, and Carter all served with distinction, too, while George Bush (the Elder), the Navy's youngest bomber pilot during World War II, received the Distinguished Flying Cross and three Air Medals for his endeavors.

Judiciary Square

East of 5th St, between E and F sts.

The idea of having a plaza or section of downtown devoted to law and the judiciary dates from the earliest days of planning for the District, and Judiciary Square continues to be the focus of the city's judiciary and local government. The mayor's offices are at One Judiciary Square, while the unobtrusively Neoclassical Old City Hall on D Street is fronted with the earliest recorded statue of Abraham Lincoln, its plans dating from 1865, just after he was assassinated; appropriately, in 1881 the building saw the murder trial of Charles Guiteau, who shot President James Garfield in the back just four months after his inauguration. Unfortunately, the building itself is fenced off and not open to the public.

Within a few blocks of here stand the US Tax Court, the District of Columbia Court House,

the Municipal Center, and the US (Federal) Court House, all uniformly colorless and monolithic. All the courthouse galleries are open to members of the public interested in watching proceedings: the US (Federal) Court House (main entrance on Constitution Avenue) sees the most high-profile action, from the trial of various Watergate and Iran-Contra defendants to that of former DC mayor Marion Barry.

National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial

The impressive National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial occupies the center of Judiciary Square. It was dedicated in 1991, and the walls lining the circular pathways around a reflecting pool are inscribed with the names of nearly 17,000 police officers killed in the line of duty. With symbolic bronze lions overseeing their cubs at the end of the memorial walls, it's a poignant spot in the so-called Murder Capital of the nation. Each May new names are added to the memorial, which has space for 26,000 more – at the present rate (a police officer is killed every other day on average), it will be full by the year 2100. There are directories at the site if you want to trace a particular name, or you can also call in at the nearby visitor center, two blocks west at 605 E St NW (Mon–Fri 9am–5pm, Sat 10am–5pm, Sun noon–5pm; free; ⓣ202/737-3213, ⓦwww.nleomf.com).

Koshland Science Museum

500 5th St NW ⓣ202/334-1201, ⓦwww.koshland-science-museum.org. 10am–5pm, closed Tues. $5. One of the newest museums in the District opened its doors in April 2004. Refreshingly, the Koshland Science Museum doesn't soft-pedal or dumb down its displays, but provides an engaging, vigorous presentation of fact, theory, and speculation relating to some of the core science and technology issues of the day. A product of the National Academy of Sciences, the museum has one permanent exhibition covering the latest, and typically controversial, ideas relating to the expansion of the universe, string theory and dark matter, and two temporary exhibits running until 2006. The

▼GREAT HALL, NATIONAL BUILDING MUSEUM

first covers the nature of DNA in various manifestations, from its nucleic-acid construction to its use in tracking down criminals and providing antidotes for pandemic diseases; the second concerns global warming in a fairly complex and multifaceted style, showing the chemical components of greenhouse gases (notably carbon dioxide and methane) and the potential dangers they pose. Both of these exhibits balance their scientific data with hands-on, user-friendly multimedia elements that enable you, for example, to find the right strand of DNA to match one existing in a deadly virus.

National Building Museum

401 F St NW ⓣ202/272-2448, ⓦwww.nbm.org. Mon–Sat 10am–5pm, Sun 11am–5pm. $5. Showcasing what is easily the District's greatest interior, the National Building Museum was constructed in the 1870s as the Pension Building, and unlike what that bland moniker might signify today, the structure was built as a jaw-dropping monument to the soldiers who fought in the Civil War – and were thus owed retirement wages commensurate with their service (hence the original name). Although the grand red-brick face of the building is impressive enough, with its 3ft-high terracotta frieze of battle scenes, the atrium of the Great Hall steals the show, supported by eight columns 8ft in diameter and more than 75ft high, each made of 70,000 bricks, plastered and painted to resemble Siena marble. Above the ground-floor arcade with its central fountain, the three galleried levels are 160ft high and decorated with 244 busts that repeat eight symbolic figures (architect, construction worker, landscape gardener, etc) representing the building arts. Not surprisingly, the space has been in regular demand, even after the Pension Bureau moved out in 1926: Grover Cleveland held the first of many presidential inaugural balls here in 1885, and every year the *Christmas in Washington* TV special is shot on site. The structure is now preserved as the National Building Museum, which presents changing exhibitions on architecture and building history. The permanent exhibition on the second floor, "Washington: Symbol and City," concentrates on the construction of the city itself with a detailed model showing how many of the District's planned buildings have come to fruition. Free tours (Mon–Wed 12.30pm, Thurs–Sat also 11.30am & 1.30pm; Sun 12.30pm & 1.30pm) give you access to the otherwise restricted third floor – the best spot to view the towering columns' intricate capitals.

Chinatown

Along G and H streets, between 6th and 8th. Washington's Chinatown pales in comparison to those in San Francisco and New York. The vibrant triumphal arch over H Street (at 7th) heralds little more than a dozen restaurants and a few grocery stores. DC's first Chinese immigrants, in the early nineteenth century, didn't live in today's Chinatown (which only became such at the beginning of the 1900s) but in the slums of Swampoodle, north of the Capitol. At that time, H Street and its environs were home to small businesses and modest rooming houses. In one of these, during the 1860s, Mary Surratt presided over the comings and goings of her son John

▲CHINATOWN ARCH

and his colleagues, including a certain John Wilkes Booth – all subsequently implicated in the Lincoln assassination. A plaque marks the site of the house (then 541 H St), now the *Wok and Roll* restaurant at 604 H St NW.

City Museum of Washington DC

801 K St NW ⓣ202/383-1800, ⓦwww.citymuseumdc.org. Tues–Sun 10am–5pm. $3. Until recently occupying the glorious Heurich House in Dupont Circle, the Historical Society of Washington DC's new digs are just about as historic: the District's former downtown library, this grand Neoclassical jewel with stylish friezes, floor mosaics, and Ionic columns and pilasters was funded by Andrew Carnegie and completed in 1903. It served patrons until the 1970s, when the main branch moved further south. Luckily, the library building has now been reborn as the home of the Historical Society, which displays photos, models, and artifacts from the history of the District, including such relics as an old volunteer fireman's helmet, deeds of slave sales and manumission, and various political posters. *Washington Stories*, a daily multimedia show (extra $4), recounts the city's past in the museum's theater, while its Gibson Reading Room (Tues–Sun 10am–5pm; free) recalls the building's former use, giving you access to a trove of photos, documents, books, and memorabilia relating to the development of the nation's capital.

MCI Center

601 F St NW ⓣ202/628-3200, ⓦwww.mcicenter.com. With the opening of the $200-million MCI Center at the end of 1997, professional sports came back to downtown DC: the center now hosts the NBA's Washington Wizards, the WNBA's Washington Mystics, and the NHL's Washington Capitals. To encourage extra visits, the center holds several other attractions, mainly bars and restaurants to grab the suburban and tourist crowds.

Hotel Monaco

7th and F sts NW ⓣ202/628-7177, ⓦwww.monaco-dc.com. Occupying an entire block, the former General Post Office is a Greek Revival masterwork dating back

to 1842, made of New York's Westchester marble and modeled on a Renaissance palazzo inspired by the ancient Roman Temple of Jupiter. As the District's first-ever building constructed of marble – created by Robert Mills, esteemed architect of the Treasury and Patent Office buildings – it has a solidity and permanence that has seen several uses since the post office pulled up stakes, including the site of the US Tariff Commission and today's *Hotel Monaco* (see review p.182). With its high-ceilinged offices now remodeled into guest rooms, the luxurious hotel's interiors and public spaces are well worth a look, with wonderfully preserved details and complementary modern touches, including vaulted ceilings, marble columns and checkerboard-marble floors, spiral stairways, and minimalist contemporary decor.

▼CITY MUSEUM OF WASHINGTON DC

Old Patent Office Building

7th and F sts NW. Catercorner to the *Hotel Monaco* is the second of Robert Mills' great DC buildings, another Greek Revival gem, which dates from 1836 and is among the city's oldest structures. It was designed to hold offices of the Interior Department and the Commissioners of Patents, displaying models of all patents taken out in nineteenth-century America. Thus it became one of the city's earliest museums, featuring models of inventions by Thomas Edison, Benjamin Franklin, and Alexander Graham Bell as well as Whitney's cotton gin, Colt's pistol, and Fulton's steam engine. During the Civil War the echoing halls were pressed into emergency service as a hospital with over two thousand beds. One of the clerks in the Patent Office, Clara Barton, abandoned her clerical duties to work in the hospital, going on to found the American Red Cross in 1881. Despite its heritage, the building was scheduled for demolition in the 1950s, until the Smithsonian stepped in. Today, housing the double museum of the **National Portrait Gallery** and the **National Museum of American Art**, the building is undergoing a major renovation and will reopen on Independence Day 2006. Until then, the Smithsonian's American art collection has partially relocated to the Renwick Gallery, where some of its key paintings are displayed in the stunning Grand Salon (see p.93); check

the museum websites at ⓦwww.npg.si.edu and ⓦamericanart.si.edu for more information.

International Spy Museum

800 F St NW ☎202/207-0219, ⓦwww.spymuseum.org. Daily 10am–6pm, April–Oct closes 8pm. $13. One of DC's newest, and despite the steep entrance fee one of its more popular attractions – call ahead as tickets can sell out days in advance – the International Spy Museum is crammed full of the type of Cold War-era gizmos, weapons, and relics that will make readers of Robert Ludlum and Tom Clancy beam with delight. The museum offers a playful and mildly informative array of items and displays from thousands of years of spycraft, beginning with a small model of the Trojan Horse and going on briefly to cover ancient Rome, imperial China, Elizabethan England, and Civil War-era America. Of course, it's the twentieth century – or more specifically from the beginning of World War II to the end of the Cold War – that the museum really focuses on, with a sizable assortment of multimedia exhibits, walk-through re-creations, dioramas, and video presentations. Providing just enough information to get you started, there's a broad range of topics on view, from Hollywood stars fighting the Nazis (notably Marlene Dietrich), to a cramped version of an East Berlin escape tunnel, to a darkened "interrogation room" for captured spies, to a video game based on the spy-coding Enigma machine. These are all interesting enough, but the museum's standouts are undoubtedly its artifacts from the height of the Cold War in the 1950s and 1960s, presented in glass cases and broken down by theme – "training," "surveillance," and so on. Some of the many highlights include tiny pistols disguised as lipstick holders, cigarette cases, pipes, and flashlights; oddments like invisible-ink writing kits and a *Get Smart!*-styled shoe phone; a colorful and active model of James Bond's Aston Martin spy car; bugs and radio transmitters hidden in ambassadorial gifts (such as a Great Seal of the US given by the Russians); ricin-tipped poison umbrellas used to kill Warsaw Pact dissidents; and a rounded capsule containing a screwdriver, razor, and serrated knife – ominously marked "rectal tool kit."

Ford's Theatre

511 10th St NW ☎202/347-4833, ⓦwww.fordstheatre.org. In 1861 Ford's Theatre was opened in a converted church by theatrical

▼FORD'S THEATRE

entrepreneur John T. Ford. It proved popular until April 14, 1865 – during a performance of *Our American Cousin* – when it became the site of the dramatic assassination of Abraham Lincoln by John Wilkes Booth, actor and Confederate sympathizer. During the play, which Lincoln was watching with his wife from the presidential box, Booth yelled out "Sic semper tyrannis" (Thus ever to tyrants) and shot the president once in the head before escaping. Initially draped in black as a mark of respect, the theater was closed while the conspirators were pursued, caught, and tried; Ford later abandoned attempts to reopen the theater after he received death threats. The site was converted into offices and only in the 1960s was restored to its previous condition.

Today it's furnished in the style of 1865, and while it still serves as a working theater, it's more notable as a museum dedicated to the night that Lincoln died. Provided rehearsals or matinees aren't in progress (usually Thurs, Sat, & Sun), the theater hosts entertaining talks (hourly 9.15am–4.15pm; free) recounting the events of that fateful night. You can then look at the damask-furnished presidential box in which Lincoln sat in his rocking chair; most of the items inside are reproductions. In the basement, the Lincoln Museum (daily 9am–5pm; free; ⓣ202/426-6924, ⓦwww.nps.gov/foth) puts more flesh on the story. The actual weapon – a .44 Derringer – is on display, alongside a bloodstained piece of Lincoln's overcoat and Booth's knife, keys, and diary, in which he wrote "I hoped for no gain. I knew no private wrong. I struck for my country and that alone."

Petersen House

516 10th St NW ⓣ202/426-6924, ⓦwww.nps.gov/foth. Daily 9am–5pm.

After Lincoln was shot, the unconscious president was carried across the street and placed in the back bedroom of a house belonging to local tailor William Petersen. Built of the same red brick as the theater, the Petersen House has also been sympathetically restored, and you can troop through its gloomy parlor rooms to the small bedroom to see a replica of the bed on which Lincoln died – though in a concession to taste, the original bloodstained pillow that used to be laid on the bed has been moved to the theater museum. Lincoln's immediate family and colleagues were present in the house during his last night, but not all could cram into the tiny room at the same time – something ignored by contemporaneous artists who, in a series of deathbed scenes popular at the time, often portrayed up to thirty people crowded around the ailing president's bed.

National Museum of Women in the Arts

1250 New York Ave NW ⓣ202/783-5000, ⓦwww.nmwa.org. Mon–Sat 10am–5pm, Sun noon–5pm. $8.

Housing one of the world's most important collections of art of its kind – more than 2500 works by some 600 artists, dating from the sixteenth century to the present day – the National Museum of Women in the Arts features silverware, ceramics, photographs, decorative arts, and paintings. Even the building itself, a former Masonic lodge, is interesting for its trapezoidal shape, brick-and-limestone facade, and elegant colonnade. The highlights of the museum's collection start with works from the Renaissance, like

▲PLAQUE, PETERSEN HOUSE

those of Sofonisba Anguissola, considered the most important woman artist of her day. From a noble family, she achieved fame as an accomplished portraitist before becoming court painter to Phillip II of Spain; her *Double Portrait of a Lady and Her Daughter* is one such work on display. A century or so later, Dutch and Flemish women like Clara Peeters, Judith Leyster, and Rachel Ruysch were producing still lifes and genre scenes that were the equal of their male colleagues, while in France, women like Elisabeth-Louise Vigé-Lebrun held sway as court painters, depicting the royalty fluttering around Marie Antoinette.

Nineteenth-century highlights include scenes by Mary Cassatt, who was intrigued by the forms and colors of Asian art; *The Bath*, an etching of mother and baby using crisp swatches of pale color, was influenced by an exhibition of Japanese woodblocks she had seen in Paris. Twentieth-century artists and works include the Neoclassical sculpture of Camille Claudel, the nature symbolism of Georgia O'Keeffe, and a cycle of prints depicting the hardships of working-class life by the socialist and feminist Käthe Kollwitz, part of her powerful *A Weaver's Rebellion* series. More curious is Frida Kahlo's *Itzcuintli Dog with Me*, in which she poses next to a truly tiny, strangely adorable mutt. The last gallery reaches into modern times, with striking photographs of figures from the entertainment and literary worlds by Louise Dahl-Wolfe, some compelling sculpture by Dorothy Dehner and Louise Nevelson, and a series of studies for the *Dinner Party*, by Judy Chicago, a groundbreaking feminist work from the 1970s.

New York Avenue Presbyterian Church

1313 New York Ave NW ☎202/393-3700, 🌐www.nyapc.org. Daily 9am–1pm, guided tours Sun after 8.45am & 11am services. The red-brick New York Avenue Presbyterian Church is a clever 1950s facsimile of the mid-nineteenth-century church in which the Lincoln family worshipped. The pastor at that time, Dr Gurley, was at Lincoln's bedside at the Petersen House when he died, and conducted the funeral service four days later at the White House. Ask in the office on the New York Avenue side and someone should be on hand to

show you the president's second-row pew, while downstairs in the "Lincoln Parlor" you can see an early draft of his Emancipation Proclamation and portraits of Lincoln and Dr Gurley.

Shops

Hecht's

1201 G St NW ☎202/628-6661. The best place in Old Downtown to get your fix of name-brand clothing, fragrances, electronics, and other mainstream goods.

Old Post Office Pavilion

1100 Pennsylvania Ave NW ☎202/289-4224. A good bet for cheap Indian, Greek, and Mexican food, where you can also gaze up at the building's massive atrium, around which are arrayed a number of gift and knickknack shops.

Olsson's Books and Records

418 7th St NW ☎202/638-7613. One of the premier spots for buying retail books downtown, with a solid selection of fiction, history, and politics (some of it touching on the District), along with a café and a respectable number of CDs.

Cafés

Café Mozart

1331 H St NW ☎202/347-5732. Worth seeking out if you have a flair for German food, this combination eatery and deli serves the requisite schnitzels, bratwursts, roasted meats, and other favorites, plus sweets, cakes, and desserts.

Reeve's Restaurant and Bakery

1306 G St NW ☎202/628-6350. In business since 1886, this classic diner has an all-you-can-eat breakfast and fruit bar, crispy chicken at lunchtime, and famous fruit pies.

Restaurants

Andale

401 7th St NW ☎202/783-3133. Federal Triangle eatery with fine, fairly authentic Mexican cuisine, including the likes of pepper-roasted seafood and chicken and some good mole sauces.

Harry's

In the *Hotel Harrington*, 436 11th St NW ☎202/624-0053. Old-fashioned meals of tasty comfort food (meat loaf, spaghetti and meatballs), with even cheaper prices at the adjacent self-service *Harrington Café*.

Hunan Chinatown

624 H St NW ☎202/783-5858. Sleek Chinese restaurant heavy on spicy flavors; the tea-smoked duck is one of the highlights. You probably won't need appetizers, as the portions are large, though the wonton in chili sauce is tasty.

Jaleo

480 7th St NW ☎202/628-7949. Renowned upscale tapas bar-restaurant with fine flamenco dancing and seafood and plentiful sangria to wash it down with. Limited reservation policy makes for long waits during peak hours.

Old Ebbitt Grill

675 15th St NW ☎202/347-4801. In business in various locations since 1856, this plush re-creation of a nineteenth-century tavern features a mahogany bar (serving microbrews), gas chandeliers, leather booths, and gilt mirrors. Professional/politico

▲D.A.'S RFD WASHINGTON

clientele feasts on everything from burgers to oysters, breakfasts to late dinners.

Red Sage

605 14th St NW ☎202/638-4444. Nuevo-Southwestern restaurant serving rotisserie-grilled meat, fish, and veggie specials. The funky café-bar is less exclusive, though its menu is more conventional. Reservations essential for the restaurant.

Sky Terrace

In the *Hotel Washington*, 515 15th St NW ☎202/638-5900. A romantic spot to enjoy a sweeping view of the city, along with a simple sandwich. While the food is nothing special, it's a bargain considering the outdoor perch above the White House.

Ten Penh

1001 Pennsylvania Ave NW ☎202/393-4500. Slick, high-profile Asian-fusion restaurant in the Federal Triangle, serving up pricey dishes like roasted duck and pork wonton ravioli. Many dishes are worth the cost, but head north to Chinatown for more authentic entrees.

Tony Cheng's

619 H St NW ☎202/842-8669. Good-value, all-you-can-eat Mongolian barbecue downstairs; upstairs, a pricey Cantonese seafood restaurant with daily dim sum. The upstairs dining room has been visited by every president since Carter.

Tosca

1112 F St NW ☎202/367-1990. Upscale Northern Italian eatery with well-prepared meat and pasta staples from the Old Country, along with tasty desserts and flavorful juice drinks.

Bars

D.A.'s RFD Washington

810 7th St NW ☎202/289-2030. The leading edge in DC microbreweries, with three hundred bottled beers and forty locally crafted and international brews on tap. Centrally located near the MCI Center, so watch for heavy post-game crowds.

ESPN Zone

555 12th St NW ☎202/783-3776. Sports fanatics will delight in the sports empire's DC branch, with hundreds of TVs – even above the urinals – showing every sporting event under the sun, plus tables outfitted with individual audio feeds and, of course, beer.

John Harvard's

In the Warner Theatre building, 1299 Pennsylvania Ave NW ☎202/783-2739. Upscale basement brewhouse and restaurant, with half a dozen solid beers on tap; also a good place to power down home-styled food favorites like chicken pot pie and meat loaf.

Clubs and live music

Dream

1350 Okie St NE ☎202/347-5255, Ⓦwww.dcdream.com. A huge, four-level lounge-and-club playing hip-hop and Latin music, with all the usual attitude. One of several mega-clubs that have appeared in recent years, still going after the others have closed. Take a cab, though – this is in one of DC's dicier areas, a fair distance from major sights.

▼WARNER THEATRE

Performing arts

National Theatre

1321 Pennsylvania Ave NW ☎202/628-6161, Ⓦwww.nationaltheatre.org. One of the country's oldest theaters, it's been on this site (if not in this building) since 1835. Features flashy new premieres, pre- and post-Broadway productions, and musicals.

Shakespeare Theatre

In the Lansburgh building, 450 7th St NW ☎202/547-1122, Ⓦwww.shakespearedc.org. Four plays a year by Shakespeare and his Elizabethan and Jacobean contemporaries. Each June the company stages free, outdoor performances at the Carter Barron Amphitheatre in Rock Creek Park (see p.148).

Warner Theatre

1299 Pennsylvania Ave NW ☎202/628-1818, Ⓦwww.warnertheatre.com. Glorious 1920s movie palace that's been remodeled and now stages post-Broadway productions, musicals, and major concerts.

Woolly Mammoth Theatre

7th and D sts ☎202/289-2443, Ⓦwww.woollymammoth.net. Increasingly popular theater troupe that's recently moved to splashy new downtown digs. Stages budget- and mid-priced shows of contemporary and experimental plays.

New Downtown and Dupont Circle

Many visitors will bear at least passing acquaintance with New Downtown, if only because that's where many of the better hotels are – and have been since the late-Victorian era, when businessmen and hoteliers first saw the advantage in being just a few blocks from the White House. More than anything, New Downtown is DC's corporate district, though some thoroughfares, like 16th Street and Connecticut Avenue, have some appeal in their architecture or the odd museum. Farther northwest, Dupont Circle has come into its own only in recent decades – it's the place to go for hip restaurants, gay-friendly clubs, charming old buildings, and modern-art galleries. East of Dupont, up-and-coming Logan Circle boasts an alternative theater scene and some quirky shops.

St Matthew's Cathedral

1725 Rhode Island Ave NW ⓣ202/347-3215, ⓦwww.stmatthewscathedral.org. Mon–Fri & Sun 6.30am–6.30pm, Sat 7.30am–6.30pm. While not quite on the same gigantic level as the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, St Matthew's Cathedral is still monumental and is an essential stop for anyone interested in things spiritual or architectural. The centerpiece above the altar is a towering, 35ft mosaic of the church's patron saint, while other features include a grand organ with seventy tin pipes, a white-marble altar and pulpit, and four more mosaics depicting the four evangelists (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) with their respective symbols. The cathedral is perhaps best known as the place where JFK's funeral Mass was held in 1963, and there's a memorial in front of the altar. When he was alive, Kennedy made frequent appearances

▼ST MATTHEW'S CATHEDRAL

here, and later (Protestant) presidents have also dropped by on occasion, along with just about any notable Catholic politician in Congress. If you want to peer at the political-bigwig worshippers, church services are open to all; for a better look at the building itself, free tours, which you can reserve in advance, occur Sunday at 2.30pm.

Connecticut Avenue NW

You could conceivably cover most of DC's major sights on just two roads: Pennsylvania Avenue NW, starting at the US Capitol and proceeding through Old Downtown to the White House, and from there on to Connecticut Avenue NW, leading from New Downtown to Dupont Circle and up to Adams-Morgan and Upper Northwest. Connecticut Avenue is arguably the most appealing of all the District's thoroughfares, if only because it links so many interesting neighborhoods – from chic and swank to funky and bohemian – and takes you past all manner of excellent eateries, nightspots, boutiques, booksellers, museums, and galleries. Moreover, it's easy to navigate, and even if you get lost all you have to do is roll downhill (southbound) and eventually you'll find yourself back at Lafayette Square, where the road begins its journey.

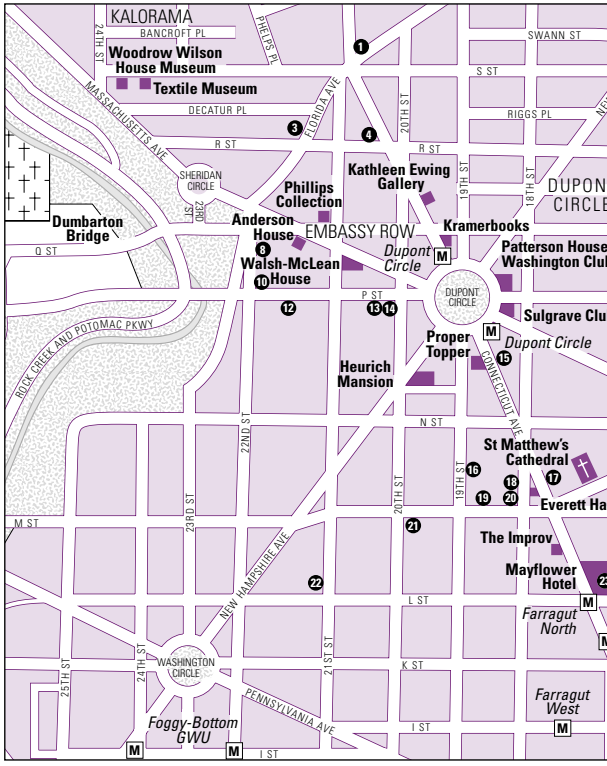
Mayflower Hotel

1127 Connecticut Ave NW ☎202/347-3000. Connecticut Avenue has since 1925 been graced by the double bay-fronted *Mayflower Hotel*, whose first official function was President Calvin Coolidge's inaugural ball but which has subsequently been used as a site for countless official and unofficial events; indeed, FDR lived here for a while after his inauguration, while J. Edgar Hoover lunched here every day when he ran the FBI. Designed by the New York architects responsible for Grand Central Terminal, the hotel's showcase is its remarkable, 500ft-long Promenade. It's rich in rugs, oils, sofas, gilt, and mirrors, as is the hotel's Grand Ballroom, in which a dozen incoming presidents have swirled around the dance floor over the years. Now part of the Renaissance chain, the hotel will cost you a good amount for a stay (see review, p.181), but you can always troop through the marvelous public spaces and peer in at the swells taking lunch in the hotel's uberchic *Café Promenade* (see p.127).

▼BATHYSPHERE, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

National Geographic Explorers Hall

1145 17th St NW ☎202/857-7588, ⓦwww.nationalgeographic.com/explorer. Mon–Sat 9am–5pm, Sun 10am–5pm. Situated with the group's headquarters near 17th and M, the hall presents excellent rotating exhibitions in the tradition of the magazine's globe-trotting coverage, as well as child-friendly geography displays.



Together these exhibits cover a range of diverse topics, including rainforest protection, indigenous cultures, and the latest trends in science and technology. There are frequent events featuring explorers, photographers, scientists, and filmmakers as well as occasional concerts. Also on hand is the National Geographic store, which vends a wide selection of maps, globes, videos, photography books, and souvenirs.

B'nai B'rith Klutznick National Jewish Museum

2020 K St NW ☎202/857-6583, ⓦbnaibrith.org/museum. Mon–Thurs 10am–3pm, by reservation only. $5.

The exemplary B'nai B'rith Klutznick National Jewish Museum presents a captivating look at Jewish life through historical, ceremonial, and folk-art objects. The galleries cover almost every aspect of the Jewish experience, and everything from eighteenth-century circumcision instruments and tax permits to painted Italian marriage contracts and linen Torah (liturgical scroll) binders are on display. The oldest items are 2000-year-old incantation bowls, whose Hebrew inscriptions were believed to cast a protective spell over whomever the words were dedicated to. Other pieces show extraordinary workmanship; note the silver spice containers adorned with turrets,

and the micrographic writing on miniature Bibles. Enthusiastic docents point out the significance of particular objects; slender metal Torah pointers, for example, are designed to avoid having a human hand touch the sacred scroll itself. The museum also has a hall of fame celebrating Jewish-American contributions to sports and goes into some detail about diaspora groups around the world.

Metropolitan AME Church

1518 M St NW ☎202/331-1426, ⓦwww.metropolitanamec.org. Mon–Sat 10am–6pm; services Sun 7.30am & 10am, Wed noon. The large Gothic red-brick Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church was built and paid for in 1886 by former slaves, becoming home to the largest black congregation in the nineteenth century. It was here that the funeral of Frederick Douglass took place in February 1895. The statesman and orator was brought to lie in state in the place where he had often preached. On the day of the funeral, crowds swamped the street outside, black schools closed for the day, and flags in the city flew at half-mast. A formidable-looking edifice, the church is one of the District's ecclesiastical high points, with its striking,

▲WASHINGTON POST BUILDING

narrow arches and spires and handsome decorative trim of granite.

Washington Post

1150 15th St NW. Hourly tours Mon 10am–3pm, by advance reservation only at ☎202/334-7969. The District's daily newspaper, the *Washington Post*, has built its reputation squarely on the investigative coup of its reporters Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, who brought to light the Watergate scandal that led ultimately to the resignation of President Richard Nixon in 1974, and who continue (in Woodward's case) to score the occasional insider's story. Free tours of the offices are available for groups of ten or more, by request in writing (call ahead for more information). If you take one of the tours, you can get a glimpse of how one of the country's most respected publications is put together – nothing surprising, perhaps, but worthwhile if you have any interest in local journalism behind the scenes.

Bethune Council House

1318 Vermont Ave NW ☎202/673-2402, ⓦwww.nps.gov/mamc. Mon–Sat 10am–4.30pm. In the Logan Circle neighborhood – located between the corporate towers of New Downtown and the grittier confines of Shaw – the Bethune Council House is a restored Victorian townhouse that commemorates one of DC's most prominent African-American residents. Mary McLeod Bethune was born on a cotton farm in South Carolina in 1875, one of seventeen children of poor parents, both ex-slaves, and persevered to found Florida's Daytona Educational and Industrial School for Negro Girls (later Bethune-Cookman College). In 1935 she was honored by the NAACP and soon after became FDR's special advisor on minority affairs. Later, as the director of the Division of Negro Affairs in the National Youth Administration, Bethune became the first black woman to head a federal office. This house was bought by Bethune in 1942 to serve both as her home (she lived here for seven years) and as headquarters for the National Council for Negro Women, which she founded in 1935. Now administered by the National Park Service, the house serves as a research

center and archive, and if you have any interest in digging into American race relations during this period, Bethune's letters and writings will help bring them to life. You're also welcome to tour the restored rooms, which are decorated with Victorian flair and contain a few mementos of Bethune alongside period photographs.

Dupont Circle

Strictly speaking, Dupont Circle is the great traffic roundabout formed at the intersection of such major boulevards as Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New Hampshire avenues, along with 19th and P streets. Beyond the circle itself, it's an amiable, relaxed neighborhood with a good blend of hipsters, yuppies, and old-timers. This is also one of the District's best places for a walk, loaded with gorgeous townhouses and mansions from the nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries, along with a number of compelling museums, bookshops, galleries, restaurants, bars, and clubs. Along with Connecticut Avenue NW, the major stretches for nocturnal entertainment are P Street west of the circle and 17th Street east of it, which both tend to be gay-oriented.

There are almost too many notable works of historic architecture to mention here, but one of the highlights is the Neoclassical building at 15 Dupont Circle NW and Massachusetts Ave – though now the **Washington Club**, it was once known as the Patterson House, where the Coolidges, camping out while White House renovations took place, entertained Charles Lindbergh, fresh from his solo transatlantic crossing. The swanky **Sulgrave Club** is another upscale, private entity, at 1801 Massachusetts Ave, with an elegant Beaux Arts design with terra cotta details that seems to tower above the commoners. Although these structures are closed to the public most of the time, some are open during the first weekend in June, when a consortium of ten area museums sponsors the Dupont–Kalo-

▼SULGRAVE CLUB

rama Museums Walk Weekend (www.dkmuseums.com), featuring free concerts, historic-house tours, and craft displays.

Heurich House

1307 New Hampshire Ave NW ☎202/429-1894, www.heurichhouse.org. Tours Wed 12.15pm & 1.15pm. $5.

One historic residence around Dupont Circle that is regularly open to the public is the wondrous Heurich House, built in 1894 for German-born brewing magnate Christian Heurich, and a stunning jewel of the Richardsonian Romanesque popular at the time. With its rough-hewn stone turret and castellations, richly carved wood-and-plaster interior, and forbidding yet perfect facade, the mansion – known as "The Brewmaster's Castle" – resembles a miniature medieval fortress plunked down in a leafy suburb. Formerly occupied by the Historical Society of Washington DC, the house is once again in the possession of the only family that ever lived there, the Heurichs and their descendants, and to their credit they still allow weekly tours of the place. These take you through many of the restored rooms, dwelling on the mansion's lavish decor and the lifestyle of its occupants. On display are the formal parlor, drawing room and dining room, a music room with a mahogany musicians' balcony, and the basement *Bierstube* (beer room), carved with such Teutonic drinking mottos as "He who has never been drunk is not a good man."

Embassy Row

Massachusetts Ave, NW of Dupont Circle. This attraction makes Washington DC unique among American cities: countless foreign embassies lined up in rows, and on intersecting streets as well. Displaying outside their front entrances many different flags – familiar and obscure – the embassies are marked by plaques (some in English) and can be anything from deserted outposts to heavily guarded fortresses, depending on the country. Again, an architecture guide will go some distance toward sorting them all out, given that most of the embassies are in grand mansions from the turn of the last century; one of

▼HEURICH HOUSE

▲ANDERSON HOUSE

the clear standouts is the Indonesian Embassy, 2020 Massachusetts Ave NW, which occupies the magnificent Art Nouveau **Walsh-McLean House**, built in 1903 for gold baron Thomas Walsh. It's a superb building, with colonnaded loggia and intricate, carved windows, and it saw regular service as one of Washington society's most fashionable venues, with soirees presided over by Walsh's daughter Evalyn, the last private owner of the Hope Diamond (now in the National Museum of Natural History). Visit Ⓦ www.embassyevents.org for a listing of art shows, lectures, food fairs, films, and displays taking place at selected embassies here and elsewhere in town. Alternatively, you can drop in on the Goodwill Embassy Tour (pre-booked $30, $35 on the day; Ⓣ 202/636-4225, Ⓦ www.dcgoodwill.org), held on the second Saturday in May, in which some of DC's finest embassy buildings throw open their doors for one day.

Anderson House

2118 Massachusetts Ave NW Ⓣ 202/785-2040, Ⓦ www.thesocietyofthecincinnati.addr.com. Tues–Sat 1–4pm. Another historic treasure, the Anderson House is a veritable palace built in 1905 as the winter residence of Larz Anderson, who served as ambassador to Belgium and Japan. As a Beaux Arts residence it has no equal in the city, its graystone exterior sporting twin arched entrances with heavy wooden doors and colonnaded portico. Inside, original furnishings – cavernous fireplaces, inlaid marble floors, Flemish tapestries, diverse murals, and a grand ballroom – provide a suitably lavish backdrop for ambassadorial receptions. Some of this you'll be able to see for yourself, since the house was bequeathed in Anderson's will to the Society of the Cincinnati, established in 1783 and the oldest patriotic organization in the country, which maintains a small museum of Revolutionary memorabilia.

Phillips Collection

1600 21st St NW Ⓣ 202/387-2151, Ⓦ www.phillipscollection.org. Tues–Sat 10am–5pm, Sun noon–7pm, Thurs closes at 8.30pm. $8. Calling itself "America's first museum of modern art," the Phillips Col-

lection occupies part of the brownstone Georgian Revival building that was the family home of founder Duncan Phillips, heir to a steel fortune who bought nearly 2400 works over the years. During the 1920s, he and his artist wife, Marjorie, became patrons of artists such as Georgia O'Keeffe and Marsden Hartley, and later of everyone from Renoir to Rothko. The museum is strong on temporary exhibitions, so any works mentioned from the voluminous permanent collection may or may not be on view when you come. A recent, ongoing renovation may also keep some works from being displayed.

The main entrance is in the Goh Annex, on 21st Street, where permanent-collection pieces include a handful of Abstract Expressionist works, including a set of paintings by Rothko and abstract items by Richard Diebenkorn and Philip Guston. On the second floor, there's a wistful Blue Period Picasso, Matisse's *Studio, Quai St-Michel*, a Cézanne still life, and no fewer than four van Goghs, including the powerful *Road Menders*. Top billing generally goes to *The Luncheon of the Boating Party* by Renoir, where straw-boatered dandies linger over a long and bibulous feast. Phillips bought the painting as part of a two-year burst of acquisition that also yielded Cézanne's *Mont Saint-Victoire* and Honoré Daumier's *The Uprising*. There's an interesting spread of works by Degas, too, from early scenes like *Women Combing Their Hair* to a late ballet picture, *Dancers at the Bar*.

▲MICROPHONE, WOODROW WILSON HOUSE

Kalorama

The leafy, well-tended streets of the exclusive district of Kalorama stretch out to meet Rock Creek Park, about a half-mile northwest of Dupont Circle. Here the city's diplomats, senators, cabinet secretaries, presidential advisors, and top-notch lobbyists and businesspeople hide behind lace curtains and bulletproof glass in row after row of multimillion-dollar townhouses, embassies, mansions, and hibiscus-clad gardens. As in all rich American ghettos, there is little to see other than a few interesting, if blandly similar, buildings. One exception is the residence of the French ambassador, 2221 Kalorama Rd NW, a Tudor Revival country manor built for a mining magnate and sold to the French in 1936 for the then-expensive sum of almost half a million dollars. Not surprisingly, they've clung to it tightly ever since.

Woodrow Wilson House

2340 S St NW ☎202/387-4062, ⓦwww.woodrowwilsonhouse.org. Tues–Sun 10am–4pm. $5. After his term in office ended in 1921, ailing ex-president Woodrow Wilson moved into a fine Geor-

gian Revival house that's now open to the public. It's a comfortable home – light and airy, with high ceilings, wood floors, a wide staircase, and solarium – which, despite his incapacitating stroke in 1919, Wilson aimed to use as a workplace where he could write and practice law. However, he only lived another three years, and after his death was interred in Washington National Cathedral.

There's plenty to see, not least of which is the bedroom, furnished by his second wife, Edith, as it had been in the White House. The canvas-walled library of this most scholarly of presidents once contained eight thousand books (they were donated to the Library of Congress after his death); those that remain are the 69 volumes of Wilson's own writings. Frozen in the 1920s, the fully equipped kitchen is a beauty, with black-lead range and provisions stacked in the walk-in pantry.

Textile Museum

2320 S St NW ☎202/667-0441, ⓦwww.textilemuseum.org. Mon–Sat 10am–5pm, Sun 1–5pm. $5. Spread over two equally grand converted residences, the Textile Museum presents temporary exhibitions drawn from its 15,000-item collection of textiles, garments, and carpets. The museum had its roots in the collection of George Hewitt Myers, who bought his first Oriental rug as a student and opened the museum with three hundred other rugs and textile pieces in 1925. Based in his family home, the museum soon expanded into the house next door; today both buildings, and the lovely gardens, are open to the public. Rotating displays might take in pre-Columbian Peruvian textiles, Near and Far Eastern exhibits (some dating back to 3000 BC), as well as rugs and carpets from Spain, South America, and the American Southwest.

Shops

Everett Hall

1230 Connecticut Ave NW ☎202/467-0003. Big-name designer for men's Italian suits and contemporary sportswear, outfitting countless high-rollers, celebrities, and athletes – and you too, if you have the money.

Fusebox

1412 14th St NW ☎202/299-9220. A chic and popular spot to sample the latest in avant-garde artwork in a variety of media, with a strong bent toward the abstract, irreverent, and inexplicable.

go mama go!

1809 14th St NW ☎202/299-0850. Funky home-furnishings store featuring cool and swanky Asian-styled art, wall hangings, and dinnerware, some of it designed by the store's owner.

Kathleen Ewing Gallery

1609 Connecticut Ave NW ☎202/328-0955. Highly regarded gallery featuring vintage nineteenth-century photography and prints, abstract and representational sculptures, and paintings by contemporary artists as well. Worth dropping in to see the latest exhibitions, even if you're not buying.

Kramerbooks

1517 Connecticut Ave NW ☎202/387-1462. In a central location near Dupont Circle itself, one of the District's most noteworthy booksellers, with a wide and

▲KRAMERBOOKS

eclectic selection, plus a decent café-restaurant.

Proper Topper

1350 Connecticut Ave NW ☎202/842-3055. The sleek and sassy spot to create a new look for yourself, with a stylish assortment of purses, bags, makeup, hats, watches, and knickknacks and accessories.

Pulp

1803 14th St NW ☎202/462-7857. Eye-popping, purple-fronted shop in Shaw thick with trinkets and oddball souvenirs, but best for its wide selection of greeting cards – from the mundane to the freakish, or you can create your own.

Cafés

Alberto's Pizza

2010 P St NW ☎202/986-2121. Little more than a basement-level take-out stand, but draws lines for the excellent deals on thin-crust pizza. Open 'til 4am Fri and Sat.

House of Kabob

1829 M St NW ☎202/293-5588. Delicious and cheap Middle Eastern fare prepared according to Islamic rules. The meat and veggie kebabs are the main draw, though the cramped setting offers zero atmosphere.

Julia's Empanadas

1221 Connecticut Ave NW ☎202/861-8828. Savory Mexican turnovers stuffed with international flavors from curry to spicy sausage, and so cheap you'll barely notice the money leaving your wallet.

Loeb's Deli

832 15th St NW ☎202/371-1150. New York-style delicatessen, one of the better places in the District to get a decent pastrami sandwich, and featuring all the usual bagel-and-lox staples.

The Newsroom

1803 Connecticut Ave NW ☎202/332-1489. Coffee, snacks, and pastries are served at this newsstand, which carries one of DC's best selections of hipster magazines, British and French imports, and hard-to-find newspapers. They also have Internet access upstairs.

Teaism

2009 R St NW ☎202/667-3827. Serene Dupont Circle teahouse

serving Japanese bentos, Thai curries, ginger scones, and, of course, lots of good tea. Also at 800 Connecticut Ave NW, New Downtown (☎202/835-2233), and 400 8th St NW, Old Downtown (☎202/638-6010).

Restaurants

Annie's Paramount Steakhouse

1609 17th St NW ☎202/232-0395. A gay-friendly, Dupont Circle institution that's been in business since the 1940s, serving inexpensive steaks, good burgers, and brunch – including a midnight brunch on weekends.

Café Promenade

In the *Mayflower Hotel*, 1127 Connecticut Ave NW ☎202/347-2233. A serenading harpist and pricey but scrumptious Mediterranean menu set the tone in this elegant hotel restaurant, where you can expect to see all types of political heavyweights.

Galileo

1110 21st St NW ☎202/293-7191. Superb Northern Italian cuisine has made this spot into a favorite for discerning foodies. Risotto makes a regular appearance on the changing menu, service is snappy, and the wine list impressive. Book well in advance.

Johnny's Half Shell

2002 P St NW ☎202/296-2021. Retro 1920s decor and a swank marble bar sit well with this bistro's down-to-earth menu, featuring local specialties like crab cakes, fried oysters, and seafood stew – go for the gumbo or, in summer, the soft-shell crabs.

Nora's

2132 Florida Ave NW ☎202/462-5143. Housed in a converted store with walls decorated with folk-art quilts, this is one of DC's best eateries, with prices to match. The all-organic fare includes oddball items like veal-and-cashew curry and Amish duck confit.

▼GALILEO

The Palm

1225 19th St NW ☎202/293-9091. This "power meatery" is renowned for its New York strip and lobster – and for the power players and celebrities who wine and dine here. Reservations required.

▲JOHNNY'S HALF SHELL

Sushi Taro
1507 17th St NW ☎202/462-8999. One of DC's best Japanese restaurants; if raw fish isn't your thing, choose from the selection of tasty curries and noodles.

Vidalia
1990 M St NW ☎202/659-1990. The New American cuisine dished up with a Southern twang has garnered this eatery a reputation as one of the District's best. Be on the lookout for barbecued pork, fried chicken, and the shrimp-and-grits combo.

Bars

The Big Hunt
1345 Connecticut Ave NW ☎202/785-2333. As well known for its eccentric decor – including a tarantula candelabra – as for its beer. More than 25 brews on tap, a good jukebox, and a groovy crowd. Always busy during happy hour.

The Brickskeller
1523 22nd St NW ☎202/293-1885. Renowned brick-lined basement saloon serving "the world's largest selection of beer" – as many as 850 different types, including dozens from US microbreweries.

Fox and Hounds
1537 17th St NW ☎202/232-6307. Smack in the middle of the 17th Street action, this easygoing bar draws a diverse crowd of different races and orientations, who are here mostly to kick back and enjoy the stiff and cheap drinks.

Mr P's
2147 P St NW ☎202/293-1064. Longest-serving gay bar in the neighborhood, though some say it's seen better days. Mirrored walls and dance tunes downstairs, hustling naked go-go dancers upstairs, plus an outdoor patio decorated with kitsch like pink flamingos.

Omega
2122 P St NW, in the rear alley ☎202/223-4917. Gay-oriented, techno-swanky spot with four bars, pool tables, and a dark video room upstairs. Stop in for happy hour or for a kickoff drink on the weekends. Mostly men.

Clubs and live music

Andalu
1214 18th St NW ☎202/785-2922. Stylish, dress-code-oriented place with a mix of moody deep-house and garage dance beats, and the occasional live musicians dabbling in jazz and electronica. Booze is on the expensive side, though.

The Black Cat
1811 14th St NW ☎202/667-7960, www.blackcatdc.com. Part-owned by Foo Fighter Dave Grohl, this indie institution provides a showcase for up-and-coming rock, punk, and garage bands and veteran alternative acts alike, plus a sprinkling of world beat and retro-pop.

Chaos
1603 17th St NW ☎202/232-4141. Free-spirited club at the heart of the 17th Street scene, with inexpensive drinks poured from a finely stocked bar. There's a cabaret show featuring drag kings and queens, plus drag bingo, the latter popular with the straight crowd, too.

Eighteenth Street Lounge
1212 18th St NW ☎202/466-3922. Ultrastylish spot housed in Teddy Roosevelt's former mansion. While the attitude can be a bit thick, the beats – mostly acid jazz, dub, and trip-hop – are a big draw, along with superstar DJs. Look for the unmarked door next to the mattress shop. Dress smart and come early to beat the cover and line.

HR-57
1610 14th St NW ☎202/667-3700, www.hr57.org. Small but authentic combo educational-institute/live-music-club where jazz in many of its manifestations – classic, hard bop, free, and cool – is performed on Wed, Fri, and Sun nights, often by newcomers on their way up. One of the essential cultural spots in the Logan Circle neighborhood.

Performing arts

Improv
1140 Connecticut Ave NW ☎202/296-7008, www.dcimprov.com. DC's main comedy stage, part of a chain of eight such venues nationwide. Draws both up-and-coming performers and the occasional veteran from the TV humor circuit.

Source Theatre
1835 14th St NW ☎202/462-1073, www.sourcetheatre.com. New and contemporary works and classic reinterpretations in this favorite just north of Logan Circle. Promotes the Washington Theater Festival, a showcase for new works, every summer.

Studio Theatre
1333 P St NW ☎202/332-3300, www.studiotheatre.org. Independent Logan Circle theater with two stages, presenting classic and modern drama and comedy.

Adams-Morgan, Shaw, and Outer Northeast

Few districts more greatly represent the gap between tourist DC and "real" DC than Adams-Morgan and Shaw. Though they offer little in the way of museums or sights, they boast some of the liveliest street culture, best independent shops, and richest blend of races and cultures in town. Even better, for those so inclined, these are the essential places to party in freewheeling dance clubs, rock- and punk-music venues, and cheap bars. The authenticity is accompanied by a bit of an edge; it's best to take a cab at night between major destinations. Outer Northeast DC offers a handful of appealing destinations, such as the National Arboretum, at some remove from its crime-ridden areas.

Columbia Road and 18th Street

Nowhere is gentrification faster changing the original, ethnic character of a Washington neighborhood than along Adams-Morgan's main drags of Columbia Road and 18th Street – the intersection of which marks the center of the area. Although many new designer restaurants, stylish bars, and hip stores have begun to outnumber the traditional Hispanic businesses, Spanish signs and notices are still in evidence along Columbia, and the neighborhood certainly celebrates its heritage handsomely at the annual Latin American Festival (July) and Adams-Morgan Day (Sept) shindigs.

South of Columbia, 18th Street is DC's melting-pot axis, where yuppies from Kalorama

▼18TH STREET NW, ADAMS-MORGAN

▲U STREET, SHAW

drop in to sample the funky vibe and snap up street wear for a song, venturesome gays and hipsters from Dupont Circle come to imbibe at bars and browse in secondhand bookstores, and African Americans from Shaw visit to support independent boutiques and other minority businesses. Matching the broad mix of visitors is a wide range of restaurants and stores – Latin botanicas, junk emporia, astrologists and palm readers, vintage-clothing dealers, fringe theaters, you name it.

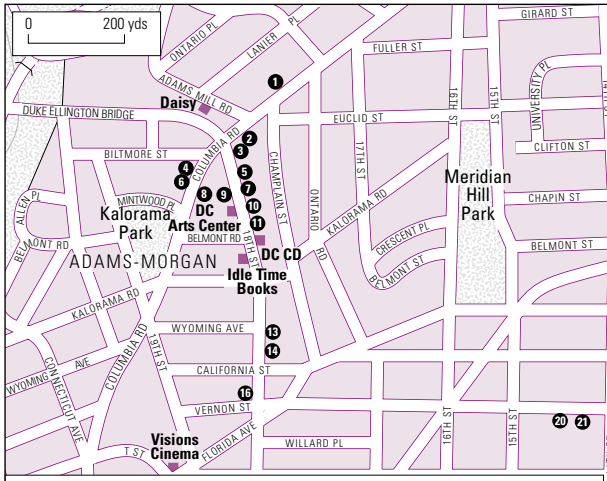
U Street

One of DC's oldest residential neighborhoods, Shaw has its focus along U Street between 10th and 16th streets. The area's early twentieth-century heyday is long gone, when pool halls, churches, cafés, theaters, and social clubs dotted the landscape; a shopping strip developed on 14th Street; and U Street evolved into the "Black Broadway." By the 1960s, the older streets in Shaw were antiquated, and the riots of 1968 finished them off. The assassination of Dr Martin Luther King Jr sparked three days of arson, rioting, and looting that destroyed businesses and lives along 7th, 14th, and H streets. A dozen people were killed, millions of dollars of property were lost, and the confidence of nearby businesses in Old Downtown jolted so severely that within a decade that area, too, was virtually abandoned.

That said, signs of revival are now evident – revitalized U Street has a Metro station and once again features on the city's nightlife scene, while 14th Street has blossomed as an alternative theater district. The requisite corporate chains (Starbucks and the like) are taking root, and redevelopment is slowly taking place – albeit more slowly than in Adams-Morgan. There's good fun in a night out on U Street or a stroll around the area's historic sights and landmarks, but take a cab to get here and avoid wandering aimlessly or alone in the neighborhood, which can change from sketchy to threatening in a few blocks.

African-American Civil War Memorial and Museum

1200 U St NW ⓣ202/667-2667, ⓦwww.afroamcivilwar.org. Mon–Fri 10am–5pm, Sat 10am–2pm. Right at the 10th Street Metro exit is the African-American Civil



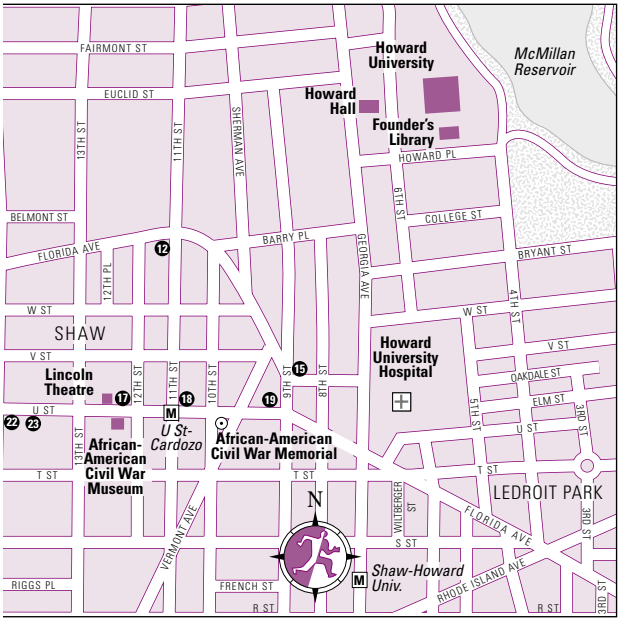
EATING AND DRINKING

9:30 Club	15	Columbia Station	13	Madame's Organ	5	Saigonnais	14
Ben's Chili Bowl	17	Coppi's Pizza	21	Meze	11	Twins Jazz	22
Bohemian Caverns	18	The Diner	7	Mixtec	2	Velvet Lounge	19
Bukom Café	9	Duplex Diner	16	Perry's	4		
Cashion's Eat Place	6	Fasika's	3	Pizza Mart	10		
Chief Ike's Mambo Room	1	Florida Avenue Grill	12	Polly's Café	23		
		Habana Village	8	U-topia	20		

War Memorial, the country's only monument honoring the 209,000 African-American soldiers who fought for the Union. *The Spirit of Freedom* sculpture stands in the center of a granite-paved plaza, partially encircled by a Wall of Honor, along which you'll find the names of the black troops (and their seven thousand white officers) who served in the war. Sadly, these brave troops were not included in the celebratory Grand Review of the Union Armies along Pennsylvania Avenue after the war's end, an early sign that the battle for equality had only begun.

Three blocks west of the memorial, in the five-story Italianate True Reformer Building, the museum tells the soldiers' little-known story as part of its small permanent exhibition, "Slavery to Freedom: Civil War to Civil Rights." Composed largely of photographs and documents, the collection begins its rendering of African-American history with the original

▼EXHIBIT AT AFRICAN-AMERICAN CIVIL WAR MUSEUM



bill of sale for an 11-year-old girl. Other features include a descendants registry and a computer search that employs the Civil War Soldiers and Sailors Names Index to identify troops and the history of their regiments.

Howard University

Main entrance at 2400 6th St NW. Call ☎202/806-2755 in advance for campus tours. Perhaps the most prestigious black university in the country, Howard University was established in 1867 by a church missionary society to provide a school for blacks freed after the Civil War. Its first faculties were in law, music, medicine, and theology, though nowadays hundreds of subjects are taken by some 13,000 students from more than a hundred countries. Famous Howard alumni include Toni Morrison, Thurgood Marshall, and Andrew Young. Sadly, none of the original campus buildings remain except one – Howard Hall, at 607 Howard Place, a handsome French Second Empire structure dating from the 1860s. Apart from this, many of the buildings are from the 1930s, in historic-revival styles. Few are better than the Founder's Library, a monumental edifice modeled after Philadelphia's Independence Hall.

LeDroit Park

Just north of intersection at Florida and Rhode Island avenues. Short of money just a decade after its founding, Howard University sold a plot of land to the south to developers who built an exclusive parkland suburb of sixty detached houses. By 1920 LeDroit Park was established as a fashionable black neighborhood, and though much of it

▲FOUNDER'S LIBRARY, HOWARD UNIVERSITY

has decayed over the decades, the area has been declared a historic district, with the finest surviving group of houses along the 400 block of U Street. Prominent black citizens continue to be associated with the area – the family of DC's first black mayor, Walter Washington, has owned a house here for years, while Jesse Jackson also maintains a property in the area. Neo-Gothic, French Second Empire, and Victorian styles predominate.

National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

400 Michigan Ave NE ☎202/526-8300, ⓦwww.nationalshrine.com. Daily Nov–March 7am–6pm, April–Oct 7am–7pm. Red Line, Brookland Station. Constructed in the 1950s, the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception is the largest Catholic church in the US. Its grand Byzantine design, broad dome with multicolored mosaics, and towering Roman arch above the entrance would alone make the Shrine an eye-grabber, but added to this are a sleek bell tower, lovely bas-relief panels, several large buttresses, and a huge circular Celtic *triqnetra*, symbolizing the Trinity – and that's just the exterior. Inside the church is astoundingly big, with some 75 chapels or alcoves for statues, intricate mosaics showing a fight against a seven-headed serpent (among other scenes), a big pipe organ and even larger baldachino with four great marble columns, and looming above it all – its eyes seeming to follow you around the church – a jaw-dropping mosaic of Jesus clad in a striking red robe, with jets of flame shooting out from his golden halo.

Takoma Park

ⓦwww.historictakoma.org for maps, tours, and information. Red Line, Takoma Station. If you have an interest in architecture, Takoma Park, America's first planned suburb for commuters, is worth seeking out for its original 1880s houses and design. Notable examples of some of the stylish historic homes in the area include the Bliss House, 7116 Maple Ave, an Italianate charmer made of

wood but with a painted brick-and-stone facade; the bungalows along Willow Avenue north of Tulip Street, which cover a wide range of Victorian building trends; the Zigzag Art Deco structure at 7000 Carroll Avenue; and the grand Cady Lee Mansion, Chestnut Avenue at Eastern, the best of several textbook examples of the Queen Anne style, rich with gables, wraparound porch, slate roof, and gingerbread detailing.

National Arboretum

3501 New York Ave NE ⓣ202/245-2726, ⓦwww.usna.usda.gov. Daily 8am–4.30pm, summer Sat & Sun closes 5pm. About two miles northeast of the US Capitol, the sprawling National Arboretum is an oasis of green amid an otherwise grim part of the District. The best time to visit is from mid-April to October, when plenty of plants are in bloom and park access is made easier by direct bus service (#X6; Sat & Sun every 40min; $1.10) from Union Station and by tram tours (April–Oct Sat & Sun, 10.30am–4pm; $4). At the entrance at 24th and R streets you'll find the visitor's center, where you can pick up a visitor's guide, which includes a map, seasonal plant information, and descriptions of the gardens. The Arboretum's undeniable highlight is its surreal gathering of "Capitol Columns," which stand in a meadow at the heart of the grounds, supporting open sky. Once part of the US Capitol, these sandstone Corinthian pillars presided over every presidential inauguration from Jackson to Eisenhower. (They were put out to pasture in the 1950s after a renovation of the Capitol building.) Other Arboretum highlights include its collections of azaleas and dogwoods, best seen in bloom on a late spring afternoon, as well as the renowned National Bonsai and Penjing Museum (daily 10am–3.30pm).

▼SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens

1550 Anacostia Ave NE ⓣ202/426-6905, ⓦwww.nps.gov/kepa. Daily 7am–4pm. Orange Line, Deanwood Station. Well off the beaten path, Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens is on the eastern fringe of the District (accessible by the I-295 freeway), but is definitely worth a look if you're curious about horticulture or natural preserves. Set on seven hundred acres of protected marshlands, the twelve-acre gardens are rich with water lilies and lotuses, and you can take an up-close view of them on an elevated boardwalk that hovers over the waterline. Alternately, there are several good paths for exploring this wet terrain, as you're able to see what was once the pristine state of the Anacostia River – hard

▲KENILWORTH AQUATIC GARDENS

to imagine in other parts of the District. The lilies are in bloom from May to September but are at their height in late July, when the park's Waterlily Festival provides a very good reason to visit.

Shops

Daisy

1814 Adams Mill Rd NW ☎202/797-1777. Stylish women's shop in Adams-Morgan that features hot items from the latest designers and an ass-kicking selection of grrrl shoes.

DC CD

2423 18th St NW ☎202/588-1810. One of the better bets in Adams-Morgan for new and used vinyl and CDs – from the mainstream to the utterly obscure.

Idle Time Books

2410 18th St NW ☎202/232-4774. Adams-Morgan favorite for used and vintage titles, with a bent toward fiction, left-leaning politics, science, and the off-beat. Late hours.

Cafés

Ben's Chili Bowl

1213 U St NW ☎202/667-0909. Venerable U Street hangout, serving chili dogs, burgers, milk shakes, and cheese fries at booths and counter stools.

The Diner

2453 18th St NW t☎202/232-8800. Open 24hr. A high ceiling and weathered tile floor make this Adams-Morgan oasis more stylish café than greasy spoon. That said, you can't go wrong with old favorites like omelets, pancakes, and bacon.

Duplex Diner

2004 18th St NW ☎202/234-7890. Classic comfort foods such as mac and cheese and meat loaf go toe-to-toe with spruced-up favorites such as salmon quesadillas – though everything on the menu is fairly affordable.

Pizza Mart

2445 18th St NW ☎202/234-9700. Adams-Morgan clubgoers mop up an evening's drinks with the hefty slices at this hole-in-the-wall pizzeria.

Restaurants

Bukom Café
2442 18th St NW ☎202/265-4600. Delicious African fare like goat-meat broth with ground melon seeds and spinach, and chicken yassa, baked with onions and spices – most for about $10 – plus a decent selection of African beers.

Cashion's Eat Place
1819 Columbia Rd NW ☎202/797-1819. Renowned for its clever takes on New Southern cuisine, where old-time dishes like casseroles, tarts, corncakes, grits, sweet potatoes, and fruit and nut pies are transformed into taste-bud-altering delights – for a rather high price.

Coppi's Pizza
1414 U St NW ☎202/319-7773. Chic little pizza joint with a brick oven, doling out all-organic pies with a range of fancy ingredients – goat cheese, pancetta, etc – along with spicy calzones. Prices a bit higher than you might expect for a pizza place.

Fasika's
2477 18th St NW ☎202/797-7673. Most upmarket of the local Ethiopian places, a twenty-year institution with sidewalk seating, live music three nights a week, and spicy stews for $12 or so. Also try the *doro wat* – chicken in pepper sauce – and Ethiopian steak tartare.

Florida Avenue Grill
1100 Florida Ave NW ☎202/265-1586. Southern-style diner serving cheap and hearty meals for almost half a century to locals and stray celebs. Especially known for its eggs, ham, and grits.

Meze
2437 18th St NW ☎202/797-0017. A wide array of delicious Turkish meze (similar to tapas), both hot and cold, is served in a fashionable restaurant-lounge setting. Kebabs, grape leaves, and apricot chicken are among the highlights.

Mixtec
1792 Columbia Rd NW ☎202/332-1011. Drab setting, but serving great-tasting, low-priced Mexican food – tacos and tortillas, plus roasted chicken and mussels steamed with chilis. Near the heart of Adams-Morgan.

Perry's
1811 Columbia Rd NW ☎202/234-6218. In-crowd restaurant serving sushi and Asian-influenced American entrees. Rooftop tables are always at a premium and the drag queen brunch (Sun 11am–3pm) is a blast.

Saigonnais
2307 18th St NW ☎202/232-5300. Gourmet Vietnamese food in a cozy townhouse – try the steamed fish, spicy chicken, or savory rice crepes. One of the better choices in Adams-Morgan.

U-topia
1418 U St NW ☎202/483-7669. Arty, romantic bar-restaurant with regular live blues and jazz, art exhibits, good veggie dishes, and a popular weekend brunch. Entrees are eclectic, ranging from pasta and gumbo to steak and sausage.

Bars

Chief Ike's Mambo Room
1725 Columbia Rd NW ☎202/332-2211. Ramshackle mural-clad

bar with live bands or DJs hosting theme nights. It all makes for an unpretentious, fun spot to dance. The bar upstairs has indie music and a pool table.

Columbia Station

2325 18th St NW ☎202/462-6040. One of the better places in the area to listen to live jazz, along with blues, presented nightly in a supper-club setting.

Habana Village

1834 Columbia Rd NW ☎202/462-6310. Intoxicating Latin dance joint infused with the eclectic spirit of the Adams-Morgan of old. Tango and salsa lessons are available, and a good downstairs lounge/bar serves a fine mojito.

Polly's Café

1342 U St NW ☎202/265-8385. Neat little brick-and-board café-bar with a few outdoor tables, good food, tap beers, and bottled microbrews. Live music on Wednesdays.

Clubs and live music

9:30

815 V St NW ☎202/393-0930, ⓦwww.930.com. Famous DC venue for indie rock and pop, local, national, and foreign. There's a separate no-cover bar, too. Book in advance for big names. It's not in a great part of town, but it is two blocks from the U Street-Cardozo Metro; take the Vermont Ave exit.

Bohemian Caverns

2003 11th St NW ☎202/299-0800, ⓦwww.bohemiancaverns.com. Legendary DC jazz supper club, reopened after three decades. The jazz happens in a basement grotto, below the stylish ground-level restaurant. Cover runs to $15 or more, with a limited number of reserved tickets for bigger acts.

Madame's Organ

2461 18th St NW ☎202/667-5370, ⓦwww.madamsorgan.com. Straightforward Adams-Morgan hangout featuring live blues, raw R&B, and bluegrass; small cover. Upstairs, there's a pool table and a rooftop bar.

Takoma Station Tavern

6914 4th St NW ☎202/829-1999, ⓦwww.takomastation.com. Laidback club with jazz several nights a week, featuring mostly local acts, with the occasional big name. On some evenings reggae acts, comedians, or poetry slams take the spotlight.

Twins Jazz

1344 U St NW ☎202/234-0072, ⓦwww.twinsjazz.com. Celebrated neighborhood jazz haunt drawing talented musicians Tues through Sun. Also serves decent Ethiopian, American, and Caribbean food.

Velvet Lounge

915 U St NW ☎202/462-3213, ⓦwww.velvetloungedc.com. Schmooze-and-booze in a relaxed setting, with an eclectic range of live performance – everything from spoken-word musings to percussion-heavy worldbeat to frenetic alt-rock thrashing – and a weekly open-mike session, too.

Performing arts

The Dance Place

3225 8th St NE ☎202/269-1600, ⓦwww.danceplace.org. Contemporary and modern dance productions, both mainstream and

experimental. Hosts the Dance Africa festival every June. Accessible from Brookland Metro station.

DC Arts Center

2438 18th St NW ☎202/462-7833, 🌐www.dcartscenter.org. Performance art, drama, poetry, and dance are held in this small northern Adams-Morgan space. Cheap tickets, too.

Lincoln Theatre

1215 U St NW ☎202/328-6000, 🌐www.thelincolntheatre.org. Renovated movie/vaudeville house featuring touring stage shows, concerts, and dance, with a focus on multicultural productions.

Summer Opera Theater Company

Michigan Ave and 4th St NE ☎202/526-1669, 🌐www.summeropera.org. Independent company staging two operas each summer, usually June, July, and/or August. Performs in Hartke Theater at the Catholic University (accessible from Brookland Metro station).

Visions Cinema Bistro Lounge

1927 Florida Ave NW ☎202/667-0090, 🌐www.visionsdc.com. Excellent spot that's one of the few places in DC showing independent and foreign films; the attached bistro serves good food and potent drinks, which can be taken into the theater. Also features *Bar Noir*, with dance DJs, and Midnight Movies on weekends.

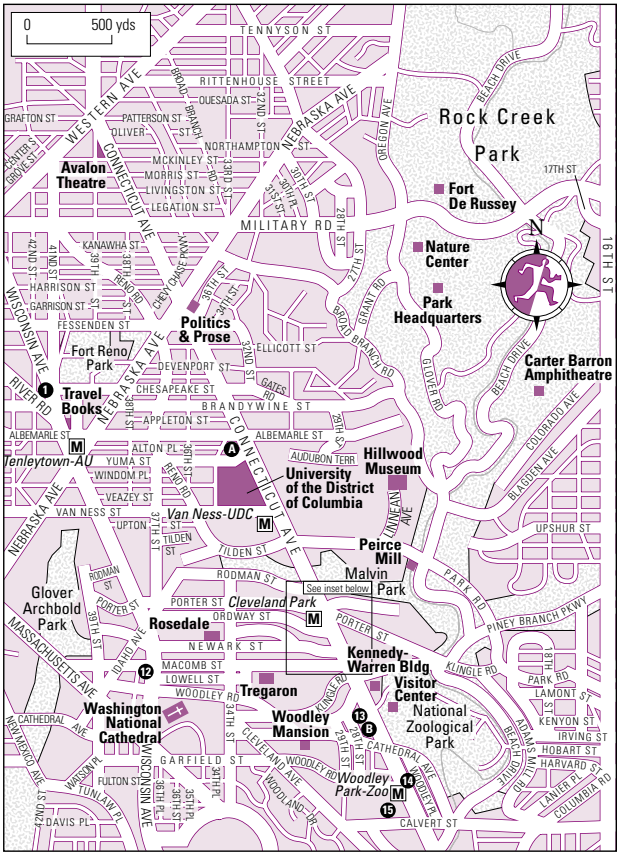
Upper Northwest

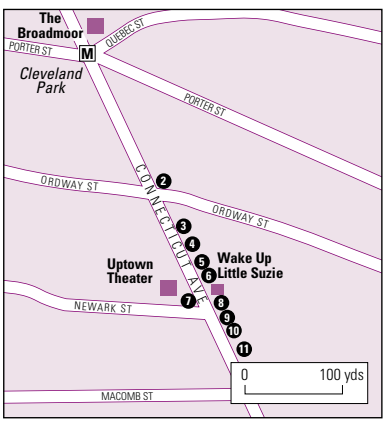
The swank neighborhoods of Upper Northwest comprise some of the most exclusive territory in Washington. The upper- and middle-class flight here first began with a series of nineteenth-century presidents who made the cool reaches of Woodley Park their summer home. Few others could afford the time and expense involved in living a four-mile carriage-ride from downtown until the arrival of the streetcar in the 1890s; within three decades both Woodley Park and Cleveland Park had become bywords for fashionable living, replete with apartment buildings designed by the era's top architects. Scattered about the hilly, spread-out area are the National Zoo, Washington National Cathedral, and the wooded expanses of Rock Creek Park, largest and most enjoyable of the city's green spaces.

Woodley Park

The first Upper Northwest neighborhood you'll likely encounter will be Woodley Park, which is marked at the intersection of Calvert and Connecticut Avenue with a pair of wondrous hotels that give a hint of the serious money that lurks in the surrounding hills. The massive, vaguely Colonial Revival *Wardman Park Hotel* (see review, p.182) was built in 1918, and its red-brick tower still dominates the local skyline. From its earliest days it has attracted scores of high-profile politicians and social butterflies who entertained guests in the grand public rooms and rented apartments. Within a decade a second landmark followed, the hybrid Art Deco–style *Shoreham* (see review, p.182), built in 1930 for $4 million. The hotel has held an inaugural ball or gala for every president since FDR, and in 2004 hosted a Republican fundraiser that snagged $35 million. It's also the spot where Truman played poker, JFK courted Jackie, Nixon announced his first cabinet and, in the hotel's celebrated **Blue Room**, Judy Garland, Marlene Dietrich, Bob Hope, and Frank

▼WARDMAN PARK HOTEL





EATING AND DRINKING	
Ardeo	11
Aroma	5
Cactus Cantina	12
Firehook Bakery	6
Ireland's Four Provinces	7
Krupin's	1
Lebanese Taverna	14
Nam Viet	4
Nanny O'Brien's	9
New Heights	15
Sala Thai	2
Spices	8
Vace	10
Yanyu	3
Zoo Bar - Oxford Tavern	13

ACCOMMODATION	
Days Inn	A
Kalorama Guest House	B

▲WOODLEY MANSION

Sinatra entertained the elite. For a view of where the nineteenth-century presidents passed their summers, head up Connecticut Avenue to Cathedral Avenue and walk west past 29th Street to the Georgian, white-stucco Woodley Mansion, now the Maret School. It was built in 1800 for Philip Barton Key, whose nephew Francis was later to pen the "Star-Spangled Banner," and occasionally hosted (middling) antebellum presidents such as Martin Van Buren, John Tyler, and James Buchanan.

Cleveland Park

Cleveland Park is a stylish suburb marked by a few eye-grabbing buildings along Connecticut Avenue, including the Kennedy-Warren Apartments (no. 3133), a soaring Art Deco evocation of 1930s wealth; the Art Deco movie house of the Uptown Theater (no. 3426), which has been showing movies since 1936; and the Broadmoor (no. 3601), a residential development from 1928 with a grand scale and angular Art Deco spin on classical motifs. However, it's farther west into the hills where you can find the really historic treasures that make this neighborhood unique. Worth a look are such old-time estates as the Rosedale, 3501 Newark St NW, featuring the area's oldest structure – a weathered stone building – that dates from 1740, amid later Colonial and early American additions; and the Tregaron, 3100 Macomb Ave NW (tours by appointment only at ⓣ202/243-1827), a stately Colonial Revival charmer that's now used as the campus of the Washington International School. For more on local architectural highlights, contact the Cleveland Park Historical Society (ⓣ202/363-6358, ⓦwww.clevelandparkdc.org), which also provides information on occasional tours of area homes.

National Zoo

3001 Connecticut Ave NW ⓣ202/673-4800, ⓦwww.natzoo.si.edu. Grounds daily: April–Oct 6am–8pm, Nov–March 6am–6pm; buildings daily: April–Oct 10am–6pm, Nov–March 10am–4.30pm. The one place in Upper Northwest that inevitably attracts out-of-town visitors is, not surprisingly, part of the

Smithsonian. Home to some 3000 creatures, the National Zoo combines the usual menagerie of giraffes, elephants, lions, and tigers with its own botanic gardens, prairie, wetlands, and aquariums. Just inside the gates from the visitor center, two trails loop down through the park to Rock Creek: the Olmsted Walk, passing most of the indoor exhibits, and the steeper Valley Trail, with birds and the major aquatic exhibits.

Strolling along the Olmsted Walk, you'll notice that the big cats in the Cheetah Conservation Station are fairly sleepy looking much of the time, but beyond here is the first celebrity sighting: the pandas Mei Xiang and Tian Tian, who arrived from China in 2000 and are the constant focus of media interest for their mating activity – or lack thereof. From here the path winds down past bison, elephants, and hippos to the Great Ape House. Nearby, you'll also find the Reptile Discovery Center, with all the usual suspects on hand plus some remarkable komodo dragons. The adjacent Invertebrate Exhibit covers everything from ants to coral and octopus, and beyond here the special moated island with the lions and tigers marks the end of the big animals, though you might want to duck in and out of the thoroughly unpleasant bat cave before heading back up the Valley Trail.

The best thing on the Valley Trail is undoubtedly "Amazonia," the indoor tropical river and forest habitat, where an undulating aquarium gets you close to the fish – piranhas included. Farther along, seals and sea lions splash in an outdoor pool, and then it's a slow walk uphill past beaver dams, the bird house, an artificial wetland with cranes and herons, and assorted eagles, antelope, and tapirs. On Thursday evenings during the summer, the zoo hosts "Sunset Serenades," events which involve musical and cultural entertainment and draw families and couples looking for more relaxing zoo sounds than the usual primal shrieks and grunts.

▼CHEETAH, NATIONAL ZOO

Washington National Cathedral

Massachusetts and Wisconsin aves NW ☎202/537-6200 or 364-6616, ⓦwww.cathedral.org/cathedral. Mon–Fri 8am–6.30pm, Sat 10am–5.30pm, Sun 10am–4.30pm; $3 donation. Washington National Cathedral is the sixth largest cathedral in the world, a monumental building so medieval in spirit it should surely rise from a dusty European town plaza rather than from a District suburb. The siting of the cathedral was

▲PEIRCE MILL, ROCK CREEK PARK

intentional, though: here, on the heights of Mount St Alban, the architects could have free rein to produce their Gothic Revival masterpiece.

George Washington first proposed the establishment of a "national" church in the city, but it was a century before Congress finally granted a charter for it. In 1907, the foundation ceremony was held and construction commenced; the cathedral was completed only in 1990, though parts have been in use since the 1920s. It's a Protestant church and the seat of the local Episcopal diocese, yet it also hosts services for other denominations and is conceived of as a national church – indeed, this is where Ronald Reagan's 2004 memorial service was held. Built from Indiana limestone and modeled in the medieval English Gothic style – its great spaces supported by flying buttresses, bosses, and vaults – it shows off some striking stained-glass windows, quirky gargoyles, massive columns, and, as an all-American touch, two rows of state flags hanging below the clerestory level. Along the south side of the nave, the first bay commemorates George Washington, while five bays down is the sarcophagus of Woodrow Wilson – the only president to be buried in the District (though JFK's grave can be found nearby in Arlington; see p.158). At the High Altar there's a splendid view back down along the carved vault to the west rose window; an elevator from the south porch at the west end of the nave ascends to the Pilgrim Observation Gallery, which affords stupendous city views. The 57-acre grounds hold offices, schools, a college, sports fields, and a swimming pool, not to mention an Herb Cottage selling dried herbs and teas, a greenhouse, and the Bishop's Garden, a walled rose-and-herb garden laid out in medieval style.

It's easiest to reach the cathedral by bus #30, #32, #34, #35, or #36 from Downtown DC; if you don't mind a twenty-minute walk, you can take the Metro. From the Woodley Park–Zoo station, turn left from Connecticut Avenue into Cathedral Avenue and right into Woodley Road to reach the lower-level information center; the west door is around the corner on Wisconsin Avenue.

Rock Creek Park

Ⓦwww.nps.gov/rocr. Bus #S2 and #S4 run straight up 16th Street to east side of park from anywhere north of K Street NW. Most visitors overlook the attractions of the city's major natural preserve, Rock Creek Park, which divides Upper Northwest from Adams-Morgan and the north-central part of the District. Established in 1890, its 1800 acres are little more than a narrow gorge in its southern reaches but spread out above the National Zoo to become a mile-wide tract of woodland west of 16th Street. A road shadows the creek for much of its length, called the Rock Creek Parkway until it reaches the zoo, north of which it's known as Beach Drive. A car is the easiest way to get in and around the park.

There are fifteen miles of trails and paths, along both sides of the creek. They include tracks and workout stations, bridleways, and a cycle route that runs from the Lincoln Memorial, north through the park and into Maryland. On weekends Beach Drive between Military and Broad Branch roads is closed to cars, and rollerbladers make the space their own. The park also features ballparks, picnic areas, and the Carter Barron Amphitheatre (16th St and Colorado Ave NW), which hosts summer concerts. The sights start at the southern end of the park, a mile above the zoo, where the serene, granite **Peirce Mill** (Wed–Sun noon–4pm; ⓣ202/282-0927) stands in a beautiful riverside hollow on Tilden Street, near Beach Drive. One of eight nineteenth-century gristmills in the valley, and the last to shut down (in 1897), it has been restored by the National Park Service and today produces cornmeal and wheat flour for sale to visitors. The **Nature Center** on Glover Road, just south of Military Road (daily 9am–5pm; ⓣ202/426-6828), acts as the park visitor center, with details of weekend guided walks and self-guided trails.

Hillwood Museum and Gardens

4155 Linnean Ave NW ⓣ1-877/HILLWOOD, Ⓦwww.hillwoodmuseum.org. Tues–Sat 9.30am-5pm; by reservation only. $12. The 1923 neo-Georgian manor once known as Arbremont was in the 1950s acquired by Marjorie Merriwether Post – heir to the cereal-company fortune – and transformed into a showpiece she renamed Hillwood. These days, the red-brick mansion and its lovely grounds – thick with roses and French- and Japanese-styled gardens – are part of the Hillwood Museum, and while the site is handsome enough, what brings people out here is the cache inside. Through her Russian-ambassador husband, Post managed to acquire in the 1930s a treasure trove of Fabergé eggs and boxes, Byzantine and Orthodox icons, eighteenth-century glassworks, and other priceless items, which today form the core of the museum's collection. There's also an array of French and English decorative-arts items – tapestries, gilded commodes, porcelain cameos, parquet-inlaid furniture, and so on – but it's the loot from Stalin's USSR that really attracts the attention.

Shops

Politics & Prose

5015 Connecticut Ave NW, Tenleytown ☎202/364-1919. Located in the northern reaches of Upper Northwest, a good independent bookstore/coffee shop with one of the best programs of author appearances and readings in the city.

Travel Books & Language Center

4437 Wisconsin Ave NW, Tenleytown ☎202/237-1322. Superb travel center and bookstore featuring guides, maps, atlases, software, international cookbooks, magazines, newspapers, and a full program of events and lectures.

Wake Up Little Suzie

3409 Connecticut Ave ☎202/244-0700. Trinket emporium with a broad range of interesting items, including home-made jewelry and ceramics, arty novelty items, curious puppets, and other assorted oddments.

Cafés

Firehook Bakery

3411 Connecticut Ave NW ☎202/362-2253. Breads, cakes, cookies, and excellent coffee are all on offer at this DC institution's Cleveland Park outpost; seating in the garden adds a bit of atmosphere.

Krupin's

4620 Wisconsin Ave NW ☎202/686-1989. Jewish deli-diner with attitude – it's a long way from anywhere, but devotees consider the trek worth it for the true tastes of hot corned beef, pastrami, lox and bagel platters, and other favorites.

Vace

3315 Connecticut Ave NW ☎202/363-1999. Grab a slice of the excellent pizza or tasty sub sandwiches, or pack a picnic from the solid selection of sausage, tortellini salad, and olives and head for the zoo.

Restaurants

Ardeo

3311 Connecticut Ave ☎202/244-6750. Ultra-trendy spot with "Modern American" cuisine – meaning lots of oddball hybrids like duck-confit cannelloni and pork loin with chickpeas – though the pricey experiments work most of the time; a good lobster sandwich, too.

▼FIREHOOK BAKERY

Cactus Cantina
3300 Wisconsin Ave NW ☎202/686-7222. A Tex-Mex treat for Cathedral-goers, with a great veranda and fine eats like enchiladas, tacos, and chiles rellenos as well as grilled dishes cooked over mesquite wood and charcoal.

Lebanese Taverna
2641 Connecticut Ave NW ☎202/265-8681. Delicious Middle Eastern joint with soothingly dark, authentic decor inside. Sample something from the assortment of kebabs and grilled meat platters, or go straight for the leg of lamb.

Nam Viet
3419 Connecticut Ave NW ☎202/237-1015. No-frills eatery in the heart of the Cleveland Park dining scene. The soups are good, as are the grilled chicken and fish, the caramel pork, the Vietnamese steak – you really can't go wrong.

New Heights
2317 Calvert St NW ☎202/234-4110. Fashionable, new-wave American restaurant serving an inventive, seasonal menu where you're liable to be served anything from buffalo to rockfish. Book ahead in summer to sit outside, especially for Sunday brunch.

Sala Thai
3507 Connecticut Ave ☎202/237-2777. Good, fairly traditional Thai noodle dishes and soups, though some are jazzed up with unexpected appearances of trendy items like seared salmon.

Spices
3333 Connecticut Ave NW ☎202/686-3833. Stylish, affordable Pan-Asian place serving spicy bowls of laksa, stir-fried basil chicken, and sushi in a spacious, high-ceilinged dining room.

Yanyu
3433 Connecticut Ave NW ☎202/686-6968. Celebrated for its inventive cuisine – rich with things like sea bass, shiitake mushrooms, and crab – and elegant decor, this Cleveland Park enclave ranks high among DC's upscale Asian restaurants, but a meal can be expensive.

Bars

Aroma
3417 Connecticut Ave NW ☎202/244-7995. For all its swank atmosphere, this Cleveland Park cigar-and-martini bar still manages to feel like a neighborhood watering hole.

Ireland's Four Provinces
3412 Connecticut Ave NW ☎202/244-0860. Rollicking Irish music five nights a week brings in a college crowd. There's a good atmosphere, outdoor seats in the summer, and thirteen beers on tap.

Nanny O'Brien's
3319 Connecticut Ave NW ☎202/686-9189. Cleveland Park's other Irish tavern is a smaller, more personable spot but with the same successful mix of heavy drinking and live music. Monday's jam night is good, loud fun.

Zoo Bar – Oxford Tavern
3000 Connecticut Ave NW ☎202/232-4225. Timeless suburban saloon across from the zoo, with Guinness and microbrews and occasional performances by blues, jazz, and rock acts.

Performing arts and film

Avalon Theatre

5612 Connecticut Ave NW ☎202/966-6000, 🌐www.theavalon.org. Near the Maryland border, a marvelously refurbished 1930s movie palace with handsomely redecorated lobby, lovely ceiling mural, and old-fashioned charm, now showing independent films and Hollywood classics.

▲UPTOWN THEATER

Carter Barron Amphitheatre

4850 Colorado Ave NW ☎202/426-0486, 🌐www.nps.gov/rocr/cbarron. Summer amphitheater in Rock Creek Park that offers a mix of free and paid events, including Shakespeare plays, concerts, highbrow dance and classical-music performances, and more.

Uptown Theater

3426 Connecticut Ave NW ☎202/966-5400. The District's other extant 1930s moviehouse, with one marvelously large screen, plenty of balcony seating, and slate of contemporary Hollywood movies. Located in central Cleveland Park.

Georgetown

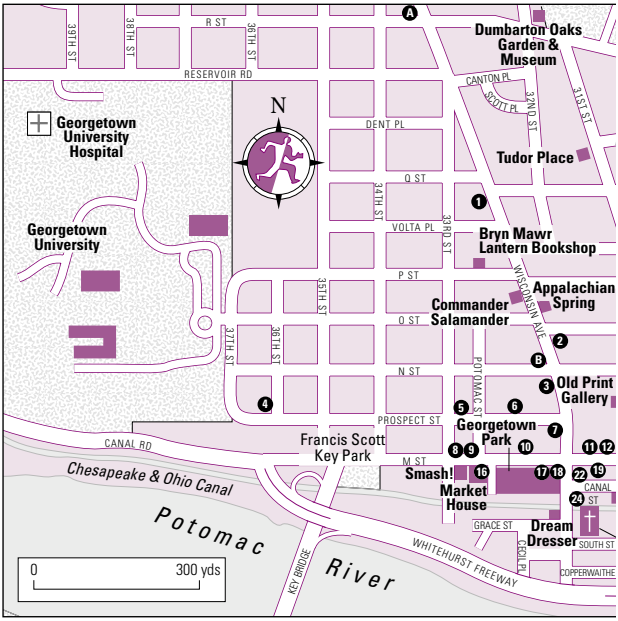
After more than two hundred years, the historic character of Georgetown still manages to impress. Well-preserved buildings line cobblestone streets, lending the quarter the air of a bygone era while housing all manner of fancy restaurants and diverting shops. It's as close to a boutique town as anywhere within Washington – a place where well-heeled visitors can rub shoulders with the capital's elite in the media, politics, law, and lobbying. It's also the only place firmly on the tourist map that isn't connected by Metro to the rest of the District, so you'll have to take a cab or hoof it over from Dupont Circle or Foggy Bottom.

M Street

The axis of Georgetown for two centuries, M Street is linked to Foggy Bottom by Pennsylvania Avenue and retains much of its Federal-style and later Victorian architecture, though the ground floors of its buildings have since been converted to retail use. Where new buildings have filled in any gaps, they've tended to follow the prevailing red-brick style, none more noticeably than the elegant *Four Seasons Hotel* between 28th and 29th streets (see review, p.180). Farther along, upscale shops and restaurants proliferate around the M Street/Wisconsin Avenue junction, whose landmark is the gold dome of the Riggs National Bank. Just beyond, the late twentieth century imposes upon the late nineteenth in the shape of Georgetown Park, a high-profile shopping mall at 3222 M Street that used to be a site for storing public-transit "omnibuses" drawn by horses. A block west at Potomac Street, the red-brick Market House has been the site of a public market since the 1860s, even if today the butchered carcasses and patent medicines have made way for a Dean & Deluca deli. On the western end of M, north on 35th Street, watch for the staircase that appeared in the horror classic *The Exorcist*, one of several Washington locations for the movie. Just to the northwest, at 37th and O streets, is the east entrance to **Georgetown University**, America's oldest Catholic university; call about taking a tour of its historic 1789 campus (Ⓣ202/687-3600, Ⓦwww.georgetown.edu).

The Old Stone House

3051 M St NW Ⓣ202/895-6070, Ⓦwww.nps.gov/olst. Wed–Sun noon–5pm; tours by reservation only. In the center of the M Street action sits the incongruous presence of the Old Stone House, which has a very real claim to fame of being the only surviving pre-Revolutionary house in DC. It was built in 1765 by a Pennsylvania carpenter and retains its rugged, rough-hewn stone construction, the craggy rocks used for the three-feet-thick walls being quarried from blue fieldstone. It has been restored to the state it probably resembled in the late eighteenth century, and short guided tours lead you through

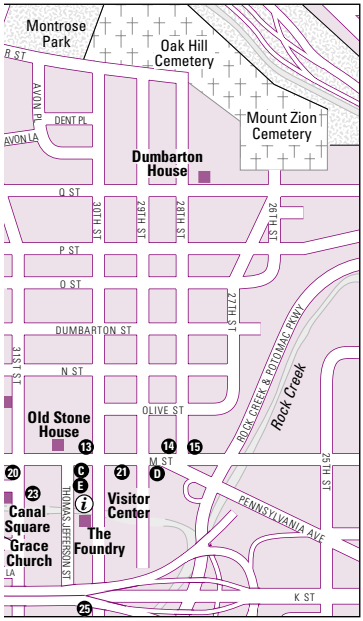


the kitchen and carpenter's workshop downstairs, paneled parlors and bedrooms upstairs.

The C&O Canal

C&O Canal Visitor Center, 1057 Thomas Jefferson St NW ⓣ202/653-5190, ⓦwww.nps.gov/choh. April–Oct daily 10am–4pm. On a summer day there's no finer part of Georgetown than the Chesapeake and Ohio (C&O) Canal, parallel to M Street a few blocks south, which is overlooked by restored red-brick warehouses, spanned by small bridges, and lined with trees. When it was finished in 1850, the C&O Canal stretched as far as Cumberland, Maryland, 184 miles and 74 locks away, allowing the hauling of barges full of goods. The last mule-drawn cargo boat was pulled through in the 1920s. Today, scores of visitors hike, cycle, and ride horses along the restored

▼THE OLD STONE HOUSE



ACCOMMODATION

Four Seasons	D
Georgetown Inn	B
Holiday Inn	A
Latham	C
Monticello	E

EATING AND DRINKING

Amma Vegetarian Kitchen	8
Au Pied de Cochon	2
Bangkok Bistro	6
Bistro Francais	12
Blues Alley	22
Booeymonger	5
Café La Ruche	23
Ching Ching Cha	24
Citronelle	C
Clyde's	17
Dean & Deluca	16
Furin's	14
Garrett's	13
J. Paul's	18
Martin's Tavern	3
Modern	9
Mr. Smith's	20
Nathan's	19
Old Glory	11
Red Ginger	1
The Saloun	10
Sequoia	25
Third Edition	7
The Tombs	4
Vietnam Georgetown	21
Zed's	15

towpaths of this national historic park; canoeing and boating are allowed in certain sections, too. The prettiest central stretch starts at 30th Street, where the adjacent locks once opened for boats laden with coal, iron, timber, and corn.

To sign up for trips on the 90ft, mule-drawn canal boats – accompanied by park rangers in nineteenth-century costume – stop in at the Visitor Center. Tickets cost $8; three or four trips run daily Wednesday through Sunday from mid-June to early September, with reduced service from April to mid-June and mid-September to late October.

Around the canal

One of the most appealing stretches around the canal is the short section between Thomas Jefferson Street and 31st Street, where artisans' houses have been handsomely restored as shops, offices, and private homes. Jefferson Street itself is lined with attractive brick houses, some in the Federal style, featuring rustic stone lintels, arched doorways with fanlights, and narrow dormers. At Wisconsin Avenue and South Street, one structure that retains its original function is the Gothic Revival Grace Church (1866), where canal boatmen would be enticed by promises of salvation from the earth-bound drudgery of hauling heavy goods.

If you're into boating, head a few blocks south of the canal to the Potomac River, where several boat-rental shops offer the means to explore the calmer waters around the Francis Scott Key Bridge and Roosevelt Island.

▲CANAL BOAT, C&O CANAL

Good choices include Fletcher's Boat House, 4940 Canal Rd NW (☎202/244-0461, ⓦwww.fletchersboathouse.com), which rents rowboats and canoes; and Thompson Boat Center, 2900 Virginia Ave NW (☎202/333-9543, ⓦwww.thompsonboatcenter.com), with its kayaks, canoes, and rowing shells.

Wisconsin Avenue

Georgetown is at its vibrant best where M Street meets Wisconsin Avenue, marking the neighborhood's cultural epicenter, rich with enjoyable saloons, clothing shops, fashionable restaurants, and antique bookstores. Whereas M Street's offerings tend to be more mainstream chain stores and tourist-friendly boutiques, Wisconsin caters a bit more to locals and those with a flair for independent shopping. It's not that the shops along Wisconsin (which is at its most alluring from M to Q streets) are necessarily cheap or obscure, but they do feature a more creative touch and irreverent spirit – anything from upstart DC designers and hometown coffeehouses to modernist galleries and frenetic clubs.

Tudor Place

1644 31st St NW ☎202/965-0400, ⓦwww.tudorplace.org. Tours Tues–Fri 10am–2.30pm, Sat 10am–3pm, Sun noon–3pm. $6. Stately Tudor Place was designed by William Thornton, who won the competition to design the US Capitol. The house displays a pleasing mix of styles, rare for the period, in which Thornton embellished the fundamentally Federal-style structure with a Neoclassical domed portico on the south side. The 1816 exterior has remained virtually untouched since and, as the house stayed in the same family for more than 150 years, the interior has been saved from the constant "improvements" made to other period Georgetown houses. The pleasant gardens are also open (Mon–Sat 10am–4pm, Sun noon-4pm; free); walk up the path and bear right where a white box holds detailed maps ($2) of the paths, greens, box hedges, arbors, and fountains.

Dumbarton Oaks

1703 32nd St ☎202/339-6401, ⓦwww.doaks.org. Tues–Sun 2–5pm. Donation. The grand estate of Dumbarton Oaks encompasses a marvelous red-brick Georgian mansion from 1800, surrounded by gardens and woods. Diplomat Robert Woods Bliss acquired the property in 1920 to house his sizable collection of art; in 1940 the house was given to

Harvard University (the current owners); in 1944 its commodious Music Room saw a meeting of delegates whose deliberations led to the founding of the United Nations the following year.

The only part of the mansion open to the public is its terrific museum, featuring the Bliss collection. Pre-Columbian art was one of the statesman's obsessions, visible with countless gold, jade, and polychromatic carvings, sculpture, and pendants of Olmec, Inca, Aztec, and Mayan provenance – among them ceremonial axes, jewelry made from spondylus shells, stone masks of unknown significance, and sharp jade "celts" possibly used for human sacrifice. Outside the house, ten acres of formal gardens (entrance at 3101 R St; March–Oct 2–6pm; $6) provide one of DC's quietest and most relaxing retreats.

Dumbarton House

2715 Q St NW ⓣ202/337-2288, ⓦwww.dumbartonhouse.org. Hourly tours Tues–Sat 10am–2pm. $5. Built between 1799 and 1804, Dumbarton House is one of the oldest houses in Georgetown. Known for a century as "Bellevue," the elegant Georgian mansion housed the city's first salon. During the War of 1812, as the British overran Washington, Dolley Madison watched the White House burn from Bellevue's windows – the house was a sanctuary for the fleeing First Family. On the tour you'll be escorted through period rooms filled with Federal furniture and decorative porcelain, and past early city prints and middling portraits. If you don't have an hour to spare, content yourself instead with a seat in the restful garden and ponder this remarkable fact: the building of the bridge over nearby Rock Creek in 1915 necessitated the house's removal, brick by brick, from farther down Q Street to its present site.

Kreeger Museum

2401 Foxhall Rd NW ⓣ202/338-3552, ⓦwww.kreegermuseum.org. Tours by reservation only Tues–Fri 10.30am & 1.30pm, Sat without reservation 10am–4pm. $8. One of Washington's most obscure attractions, the Kreeger Museum is little known mainly because of its location in the hills northwest of Georgetown University, though it well rewards a visit (probably by car) for its splendid array of twentieth-century modernist art.

▼BLISS COLLECTION, DUMBARTON OAKS

▲DUMBARTON HOUSE

The museum has open hours on Saturday but shows its collection on 90min tours the rest of the week. However you see it, you'll be in the presence of all manner of major artists – from Monet and Renoir to Picasso and Frank Stella. Also worth a look are the jagged steel monoliths of David Smith, the lean metallic sculptures of Brancusi, James Rosenquist's huge Pop Art diptychs and triptychs, and Edvard Munch's disturbing Scandinavian brand of Expressionism. It's sometimes hard to predict exactly what will be on view, given that the museum stages periodic temporary exhibitions once a year.

Shops

Appalachian Spring

1415 Wisconsin Ave NW ☎202/337-5780. A colorful array of handmade ceramics, jewelry, rugs, glassware, kitchenware, quilts, toys, and other eclectic examples of American craftwork.

Bryn Mawr Lantern Bookshop

3241 P St NW ☎202/333-3222. Although its stock is donated, this rare and vintage dealer has a great general selection of secondhand books.

Commander Salamander

1420 Wisconsin Ave NW ☎202/337-2265. Funky T-shirts and sneakers, sportswear and party gear, gimcrack jewelry, and various eclectic and oddball items. Open late.

Dream Dresser

1042 Wisconsin Ave NW ☎202/625-0373. One of the racier operations along this commercial stretch, an eye-popping emporium for all kinds of naughty lingerie, corsets, and fetish wear.

The Old Print Gallery

1220 31st NW ☎202/965-1818. A favorite local seller of historic landscapes, antique maps, old charts and prints, plus political cartoons, DC scenes, and early-American artisan work.

Smash!

3285 1/2 M St NW ☎202/337-6274. Punks gasping for air amid Georgetown's well-scrubbed shops can take refuge among the racks of leather pants, zebra-stripe Creepers, and studded belts, or select a vinyl classic from the selection of punk records.

Cafés

Booeymonger
3265 Prospect St NW ☎202/333-4810. Crowded deli-coffee shop at the corner of Prospect and Potomac streets, excellent for its inventive sandwiches like the Gatsby Arrow – roast beef and brie – and the Patty Hearst – turkey and bacon with Russian dressing.

Café la Ruche
1039 31st St NW ☎202/965-2684. Relaxing bistro with patio seating ideal for dining alone or in twos in warmer weather. Sample the onion soup, quiches, and *croque monsieur* or drop by for pastries and espresso.

Ching Ching Cha
1063 Wisconsin Ave NW ☎202/333-8288. Bright and pleasant tearoom transports teetotalers to Old Asia with black teas and herbal infusions, a tidy menu of savory items like bentos and dumplings, and an array of snazzy collectibles for sale.

Dean & DeLuca
3276 M St NW ☎202/342-2500. Superior self-service café (and fantastic attached deli-market with sushi stand) in one of M Street's most handsome red-brick buildings. Croissants and cappuccino, designer salads, pasta, and sandwiches.

Furin's
2805 M St NW ☎202/965-1000. Georgetown's best bet for a home-cooked eggs-and-fries breakfast, blue-plate deli sandwiches, potato or chicken salads, and tasty desserts and pastries.

Restaurants

Amma Vegetarian Kitchen
3291 M St NW ☎202/625-6625. A safe haven for vegetarians and vegans, this South Indian spot specializes in *dosa* – lentil and rice-flour wraps – but also has very good curries and breads, along with veggie meatballs.

Au Pied de Cochon
1335 Wisconsin Ave NW ☎202/337-6400. Cheap, 24hr French bistro-bar serving breakfast (until noon), $10 early-bird dinners (3–8pm), and a la carte eggs, fish, coq au vin, steaks, and the like. An old, weathered Georgetown favorite.

▼DEAN & DELUCA

Bangkok Bistro
3251 Prospect St NW ⓣ202/337-2424. Pitches some style into Thai dining with a sleek dining room that's often full. The old favorites (*tom yum*, pad Thai, shrimp cakes, and satay) sit alongside spicy beef curries and chili prawns.

Bistro Français
3128 M St NW ⓣ202/338-3830. Renowned for its French cooking, from simple steak-frites and rotisserie chicken to roast pigeon and lamb sausage, this bistro stays open late. Early-bird (5–7pm) and late-night (10.30pm–1am) set dinners for around $20.

Citronelle
In the *Latham Hotel*, 3000 M St ⓣ202/625-2150. Huge player on the DC dining scene, serving up French-inspired cuisine with a California flair – and set-price dinners starting at $125. Dress swanky and bring plenty of attitude.

Clyde's
3236 M St NW ⓣ202/333-9180. Classic New York-style saloon-restaurant and a Georgetown institution, featuring checked tablecloths, Art Deco lampshades, and burnished wood interior. Reservations essential for weekend dinner and Sunday brunch.

Martin's Tavern
1264 Wisconsin Ave NW ⓣ202/333-7370. Old-fashioned, clubby saloon that's more than seventy years old, but still serves up famous steaks and chops, great burgers, linguine with clam sauce, and oyster platters – try the popular brunch.

Old Glory
3139 M St NW ⓣ202/337-3406. Rollicking barbecue restaurant with hickory smoke rising from the kitchen. Accompany your huge portions of ribs and chicken with one of the half-dozen sauces on every table and a shot of great bourbon.

Red Ginger
1564 Wisconsin Ave NW ⓣ202/965-7009. Crab cakes, seafood quesadillas, and oxtail stew are just some of the culinary features at this hybrid Caribbean-African restaurant, with numerous "small plates" (a la tapas) at affordable prices.

Vietnam Georgetown
2934 M St NW ⓣ202/337-4536. Tourist-friendly Vietnamese restaurant, with decent food and solid specials that include grilled lemon chicken, stuffed crepes, and shrimp curry.

Zed's
1201 28th St NW ⓣ202/333-4710. The place for Ethiopian food in Georgetown, and an intimate one at that. The set lunch is cheap but so are the dinner entrees. The *doro wot* (chicken stew in a red pepper sauce) is a good, spicy choice, as are the tenderloin beef cubes.

Bars

Garrett's
3003 M St NW ⓣ202/333-1033. Amid its brick-and-wood interior, Garrett's features a giant rhino head by the door, pumping jukebox that keeps the young crowd in a party mood, and nightly drink specials, along with a few microbrews.

J. Paul's
3218 M St NW ⓣ202/333-3450. A "dining saloon" that offers the

standard grill/barbecue menu, with some famous crab cakes, and a great bar with its own-brewed Amber Ale.

Mr Smith's

3104 M St NW ⓣ202/333-3104. Most welcoming of Georgetown's saloons, with a splendid garden drinking and eating area, cheap beer-and-burger nights, live bands on weekends, and $1.50 rail drinks during weekday Happy Hour.

Nathan's

3150 M Street NW ⓣ202/338-2000. Longstanding Georgetown institution known for its sizable bar with plenty of potent choices, and all-American steak-and-potatoes fare in its back dining room.

Sequoia

3000 K St NW ⓣ202/944-4200. Popular restaurant-bar with one of the best locations in the area – at the eastern end of Washington Harbor, with outdoor terrace seating overlooking the river. Arrive early on weekends.

The Tombs

1226 36th St NW, at Prospect St ⓣ202/337-6668. Busy basement student haunt, adorned with rowing blades. It's good for catching college football on Saturday afternoons in fall or just soaking up the Georgetown vibe. Occasional live bands and club nights.

Clubs and live music

Blues Alley

1073 Wisconsin Ave NW, Georgetown ⓣ202/337-4141, ⓦwww.bluesalley.com. Small, celebrated Georgetown jazz bar, in business for more than thirty years, attracting top names. Shows usually at 8pm and 10pm, plus midnight some weekends; cover can run to $40. Book in advance.

Modern

3287 M St NW ⓣ202/338-7027. Upscale lounge and club boasting a stylish bar and fittingly mod decor – all shiny metallic surfaces and posh designs – and mix of hip-hop, house, and other beats.

The Saloun

3239 M St NW ⓣ202/965-4900. Cozy bar with 75 bottled beers and nightly jazz trios or bands, plus occasional R&B and soul acts. Free admission before 8pm, otherwise small cover charge.

Third Edition

1218 Wisconsin Ave NW ⓣ202/333-3700. Gung-ho college scene spread across several floors, with bars and second-floor dance club with DJs and periodic live music. It's a cattle-market on weekends, when you'll probably have to wait in line and pay a cover.

Arlington

The Virginia suburb of Arlington is directly linked to Washington by the fetching Arlington Memorial Bridge, and it features several of DC's iconic sights, such as Arlington National Cemetery, the Pentagon, and Arlington House, the home of Robert E. Lee. Across the river to the east is pleasant and walkable Roosevelt Island. In addition to a few good Vietnamese restaurants, the town boasts some major malls and a handful of worthwhile bars and clubs. Conveniently, much of the nightlife is found on Clarendon and Wilson boulevards around the Court House and Clarendon Metro stations, and the rest of the sights are equally accessible on public transit.

Arlington National Cemetery

Across Arlington Memorial Bridge ⓣ703/695-3250, ⓦwww.arlingtoncemetery.org. Daily: April–Sept 8am–7pm; Oct–March 8am–5pm.

A vast sea of identical white headstones that spreads across hillsides, Arlington National Cemetery honors some quarter-million US soldiers and their dependents, as well as the assassinated Kennedy brothers, whose graves here elevate the cemetery to the status of a pilgrimage site. Primarily a military burial ground – the largest in the country – Arlington's 600 landscaped acres also contain the graves of other national heroes with military connections, from boxing legend (and ex-GI) Joe Louis to the crew of the doomed space shuttle *Challenger*.

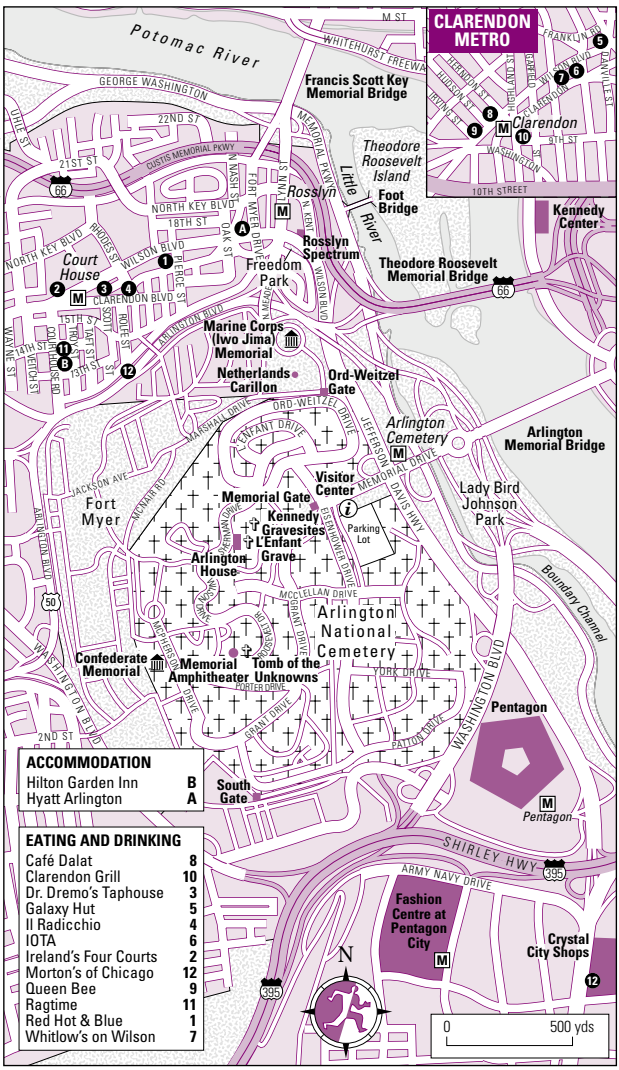
The Metro takes you right to the main gates on Memorial Drive. Luckily, the visitor center by the entrance issues maps indicating some of the more prominent graves; the cemetery is absolutely enormous, so if you simply want to see the major sites without doing too much walking, board a Tourmobile for a narrated tour (see Essentials).

The site began as a burial ground for Union soldiers, though as a national cemetery it was subsequently deemed politic to honor the dead of both sides in the Civil War. The Confederate Section, with its own memorial, lies to the west of the Tomb of the Unknowns; other sections and memorials commemorate conflicts from the Revolutionary War to the Gulf War, and the fallen from recent wars in Afghanistan and Iraq continue to be interred here.

The focus of much visitor attention is the marble terrace where simple name plaques mark the graves of John F. Kennedy, 35th US president, his wife Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, and two of their children – a son, Patrick, and an unnamed daughter – who both died shortly after birth. The eternal flame, which burns here, was lit at JFK's funeral by Jackie. When it's crowded, as it often is, the majesty of the view across to the Washington Monument and the poignancy of the inscribed extracts from JFK's inaugural address – "Ask not what your country can do for you..." – are sometimes obscured; come early or late in the day, if possible. In

the plot behind Jack's, a plain white cross marks the gravesite of his brother Robert, assassinated in 1968.

The Tomb of the Unknowns, a white marble block dedicated to the unknown dead of two world wars and the Korea and Vietnam conflicts, is guarded 24 hours a day by impeccably uniformed soldiers, who carry out a somber Changing of the Guard (April–Sept every half-hour, otherwise on the hour);



▲TOMB OF THE UNKNOWNS

the circular, colonnaded Memorial Amphitheater behind is the site of special remembrance services.

The highest concentration of notable individual graves is found in the myriad plots surrounding the Tomb of the Unknowns: with a map, you'll find the graves of Audie Murphy, most decorated soldier in World War II, and former heavyweight champ Louis (born, and buried here, as Joe Louis Barrow), among others.

The most photographed of the many memorials is the one dedicated to those who died aboard the *Challenger*, located behind the amphitheater. One of the most recent memorials, situated at the main gateway, honors Women in Military Service – the country's first national monument to American servicewomen.

Arlington House

Sherman Drive, in Arlington National Cemetery ☎703/557-0613, ⓦwww.nps.gov/arho. Daily 9.30am–4.30pm. Arlington National Cemetery stands on land that once belonged to General Robert E. Lee, who in 1861 was at home at his Georgian Revival mansion – Arlington House – when he heard the news of the secession of Virginia from the Union. Although offered command of the Union Army, Lee resigned his US Army commission and left his Arlington home for the confederate capital of Richmond, where he led Virginia's military forces. The estate was eventually confiscated by the federal government, and the Lees never returned; in 1864 a cemetery for the Union dead of the Civil War was established on the grounds of the house.

Since the 1950s Arlington House has stood as a memorial to the Lee family. A self-guided tour leads you past highlights such as the bedroom where Lee wrote his resignation letter and the family parlor in which he was married. A fair proportion of the furnishings are original. Outside, the views across the river to the Mall are exemplary.

Marine Corps Memorial and Netherlands Carillon

Arlington Blvd, at Meade St ☎703/289-2500, ⓦwww.nps.gov/gwmp/usmc.htm. Daily 24hr. Just outside the cemetery to the north is the 78-

foot-high, bronze Marine Corps Memorial, which shouldn't be missed. It's a twenty-minute walk north of the cemetery's main section, through the Ord-Weitzel Gate, though the easiest approach is actually from Rosslyn Metro, from which it's a ten-minute, signposted walk. The affecting memorial commemorates the marine dead of all wars, but it's more popularly known as the Iwo Jima Statue, after the "uncommon valor" shown by US troops in the bloody World War II battle for the small Pacific island. In a famous image – inspired by a photograph by Robert Rosenthal – half a dozen marines raise the Stars and Stripes on Mount Suribachi in February 1945. In summer (June–Aug), the US Marine Corps presents a parade and concert at the memorial every Tuesday at 7pm.

Nearby, to the south, rises the Netherlands Carillon, a 130ft-high steel monument dedicated to the Dutch liberation from the Nazis in 1945. Given by Holland in thanks for US aid, the tower is set in landscaped grounds featuring thousands of tulips, which bloom each spring. The fifty bells of the carillon are rung on Saturdays and holidays from May through September; at those times visitors can climb the tower for superlative city views.

▼ARLINGTON HOUSE

The Pentagon

I-395, at Jefferson Davis Hwy ☎703/695-3325, ⓦwww.defenselink.mil. Mon–Fri 9am–3pm; by reservation only. The locus of modern American war-making, the Pentagon is the seat of the US Department of Defense and one of the largest chunks of architecture in the world, with a floor area of 6.5 million square feet and five 900ft-long sides enclosing 17.5 miles of corridors. The building is constructed entirely of concrete rather than the marble that brightens the rest of Washington. Terrorists left their mark on this massive structure on 9/11 when they crashed Flight 77 into its western flank, killing nearly two hundred people and tearing open a hole almost 200ft wide. In the wake of the attack, the military suspended all Pentagon tours, though they've since resumed for veterans and school groups of ten or more people; reserve well in advance.

The Mount Vernon Trail and Roosevelt Island

If you've had enough of official government sites and are inter-

▲WOMEN IN MILITARY SERVICE MEMORIAL

ested in doing a little hiking or biking, the 18.5-mile Mount Vernon Trail runs parallel to the George Washington Memorial Parkway, from Arlington Memorial Bridge south via Alexandria (7 miles) to Mount Vernon in Virginia. The trail sticks close to the Potomac for its entire length and runs past a number of sites of historic or natural interest. For more information, and a free trail guide, contact the National Park Service in Washington (☎202/619-7222, ⓦwww.nps.gov). Those looking for a quieter place for a constitutional should head to Roosevelt Island, a nature park with 2.5 miles of trails that meander through marsh, swamp, and forest. Access to the island, which lies at the start of the Mount Vernon Trail, is via a footbridge on the Arlington side of the Potomac, not far from the Rosslyn Metro station.

Shops

Crystal City Shops

Crystal Drive and 23rd St ☎703/922-4636. Directly accessible via its own Metro stop, the section of town known as Crystal City hosts this amalgamation of a hundred shops – mostly chain retailers – plus a handful of decent cafés and restaurants.

Fashion Centre at Pentagon City

1100 S Hayes St ☎703/415-2400. Another somewhat upscale mall with chain retailers and seven uneventful restaurants; it's also right on the Metro line.

Restaurants

Café Dalat

3143 Wilson Blvd ☎703/276-0935. Brisk, Formica-tabled Vietnamese joint with a popular lunch buffet and some tasty specials such as grilled lemon chicken and five-spice pork.

Il Radicchio

1801 Clarendon Blvd ☎703/276-2627. The cross-river branch of this pizza-and-pasta chain offers great-value wood-fired pizzas and mix-and-match spaghetti-and-sauce combos.

Morton's of Chicago

1631 Crystal Square Ave ☎703/418-1444. Local branch of the chic steakhouse chain, with the

standard array of delicious cuts of beef and veal, lobster, and a clubby atmosphere good for smoking and boozing.

Queen Bee

3181 Wilson Blvd ⓣ703/527-3444. The best Vietnamese food around, with renowned crunchy spring rolls, seafood over crispy noodles, grilled pork, and huge bowls of noodle soup. Expect to wait.

Red Hot & Blue

1600 Wilson Blvd, at Pierce ⓣ703/276-7427. Memphis barbecue joint that spawned a chain, serving the best ribs in the District. A rack, with coleslaw and beans, costs just ten bucks.

Bars

Clarendon Grill

1101 N Highland St ⓣ703/524-7455. Solid old favorite for boozing, and something of a pickup joint. Music selections (Wed–Sat) include earnest acoustic strummers, alternative rockers, and occasional DJs – but the real focus is convivial drinking.

Dr Dremo's Taphouse

2001 Clarendon Blvd ⓣ703/528-4660. Microbrews and pool in a converted car showroom, right at the Court House Metro station. The bar's the most fun on Tuesday nights, when the beer is just $1 a glass and "psychotronic" film showings offer nerve-jangling D-grade horror and kitsch classics.

Ireland's Four Courts

2051 Wilson Blvd, at N Courthouse Rd ⓣ703/525-3600. One of the nicest of the area's Irish bars, drawing a cheery Arlington crowd for the live music (Tues–Sat), dozen beers on tap, whiskey selection, and filling food.

Clubs and live music

Galaxy Hut

2711 Wilson Blvd ⓣ703/525-8646. Regular line-up of local DJ talent takes the stage in this tiny neighborhood hangout set in a popular strip for music, with a bevy of beers on tap.

IOTA Club and Café

2832 Wilson Blvd ⓣ703/522-8340. One of the area's better choices for clubbing, a warehouse-style music joint with nightly performances by local and national indie, folk, and blues bands. A great bar and attached restaurant, too.

Ragtime

1345 N Courthouse Rd ⓣ703/243-4003. Relaxed bar and grill decorated with antique decor and offering live music several nights a week, often hip-hop, jazz, or blues.

Whitlow's on Wilson

2854 Wilson Blvd ⓣ703/276-9693. Neighborhood retro lounge on Wilson with good happy hour drinks and food, pool, and wraparound bar, but best for its live rock, jazz, acoustic, blues, and reggae.

Performing arts and film

Arlington Cinema 'n Drafthouse

2903 Columbia Pike ⓣ703/486-2345. Grab a brew or munch on food while you watch a second-run movie at this combo pub-theater.

Gunston Arts Center

2700 South Lang St ⓣ703/228-1850. Featuring two theaters, this facility hosts a range of drama, novelties, and cultural events from local and regional troupes.

Rosslyn Spectrum

1611 N Kent St ⓣ703/525-7550, ⓦwww.arlingtonarts.org. Near the last Arlington Metro stop before DC, a good venue for theater, concerts, and cultural events. With classics, multimedia experiments, and off-kilter new plays, you're likely to see almost anything here.

Signature Theatre

3806 S Four Mile Run ⓣ703/218-6500, ⓦwww.signature-theatre.org. Award-winning theatrical group putting on premieres of new works, as well as straightforward revivals and irreverent adaptations of classics and musicals.

Day-trips

Beyond Washington DC and Arlington, the attractions are farther flung but still worthwhile if you have a car or can navigate between Metro and bus lines. In Virginia, in particular, you can go in any direction and find some fascinating slice of history, culture, or entertainment. Excellent day-trips within easy reach include treks to the wonderfully preserved eighteenth-century town of Alexandria – also good for its dining and nightlife – and George Washington's home of Mount Vernon. The latter excursion can be combined with a visit to lesser-known, but still intriguing, Woodlawn Plantation, which is also the site of Frank Lloyd Wright's "Usonian" Pope-Leighey House.

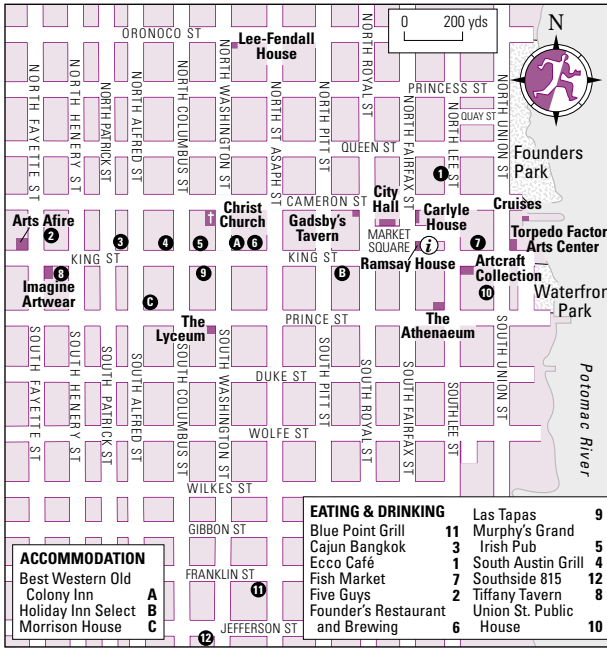
Old Town Alexandria

Yellow or Blue Line, King Street Station. Walk half-mile east or use local DASH bus. The lovely, preserved Old Town of Alexandria, Virginia, alone provides an excellent reason for visitors to venture beyond the confines of DC. Fully seeing all the town has to offer – with its restored shops and taverns, Georgian and Neoclassical houses, and other tourable sites – requires several days just by itself. Along with this, the appealing bed-and-breakfasts, pubs, clubs, and restaurants that populate the place give it a real sense of contemporary vitality, not just ossified museum-town dullness.

Ramsay House

221 King St, Alexandria ⓣ703/838-4200, ⓦwww.funside.com. Daily 9am–5pm. The town's visitor center is located in the Ramsay House and offers pamphlets and information on countless other historic sites and curiosities. The house itself is the oldest in town, built (though not originally on this site) in 1724 for William Ramsay, one of Alexandria's founding merchants and later its first mayor. Ramsay had the house transported upriver from Dumfries, Virginia, and placed facing the

▼OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA



▼RAMSAY HOUSE

river, where his ships loaded up with tobacco. The water is now three blocks away: the bluff that the town was built on was excavated after the Revolution, and the earth was used to extend the waterfront into the shallow bay.

Carlyle House

121 N Fairfax St, Alexandria ☎703/549-2997, ⓦwww.carlylehouse.org. Tues–Sat 10am–4.30pm, Sun noon–4.30pm. $4.

In the 1750s, when all the town's other buildings were constructed of wood, prosperous merchant John Carlyle's Georgian, white-sandstone house made an ostentatious statement about its owner's wealth. Accounts of Carlyle's business dealings – he ran three plantations and traded countless slaves – inform the half-hour guided tours of the restored house. Contrast the family's

▲CARLYLE HOUSE

same scenery, along with other historic buildings, bathed in a romantic glow ($20; ☎703/838-4242). Anyone who was anyone in early-American society dropped by for a visit here – from the Marquis de Lafayette to Thomas Jefferson. Some would come to eat, drink, and be merry; others to pontificate at club meetings; still others to perform or watch theatrical productions; and a great many others to dance – in the galleried ballroom, George Washington used to cut a rug at parties thrown for his birthday.

draped beds, expensively painted rooms, and fine furniture with the bare servants' hall, which has actually been over-restored – in the eighteenth century it would have had an earthen floor and no glass in the windows. More than many historic-home tours, this one tries to lay out the authentic historical evidence involving the site. Aside from slavery and domestic matters, the Carlyle House played a role in intercontinental affairs: in August 1755, it was used as General Braddock's headquarters during the planning of the French and Indian War. George Washington was on Braddock's staff, and later he frequently visited the house.

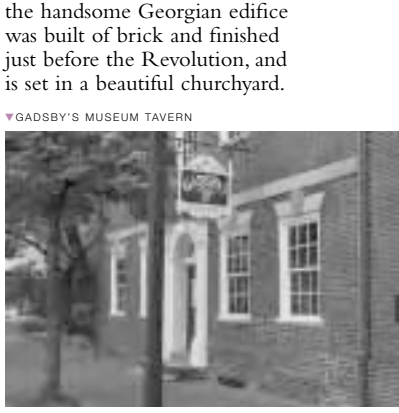
Gadsby's Museum Tavern

134 N Royal St, Alexandria ☎703/838-4242, 🌐www.gadsbystavern.org. April–Sept Tues–Sat 10am–5pm; Sun 1–5pm, Oct–March Tues–Sat 11am–4pm, Sun 1–4pm. $4. Gadsby's Museum Tavern occupies two (supposedly haunted) Georgian buildings, the City Hotel from 1792 and the tavern itself from 1785. Downstairs, Gadsby's Tavern is still a working restaurant (complete with "authentic" colonial food and costumed staff). Short tours by a knowledgeable guide lead you through the old tavern rooms upstairs; candlelight tours in mid-December offer the

Christ Church

118 N Washington St, Alexandria ☎703/549-1450, 🌐www.historicchristchurch.org. Mon–Sat 9am–4pm, Sun 2–4pm. To see the Washington family pew, head to the English-style Christ Church, a working branch of the Episcopal diocese. Identified by a striking red-and-white bell tower, the handsome Georgian edifice was built of brick and finished just before the Revolution, and is set in a beautiful churchyard.

▼GADSBY'S MUSEUM TAVERN



▲GHOST AND GRAVEYARD TOUR, OLD TOWN

During the Civil War Union soldiers worshipped here, as did FDR and Churchill on one occasion eighty years later; periodically, the sitting president may drop in for a visit, often to coincide with President's Day or Washington's birthday.

Lee-Fendall House

614 Oronoco St, Alexandria ⓣ703/548-1789, ⓦwww.leefendallhouse.org. Tues–Sat 10am–4pm, Sun 1–4pm. $4. A descendant of the Lees of Virginia, Phillip Fendall built his splendid clapboard mansion, the Lee-Fendall House, in 1785. Distinguished Revolutionary War general Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee composed Washington's funeral oration here (in which, famously, he declared him "first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen"); although much of the furnishing dates from the Antebellum era (and the house has been remodeled into the Greek Revival style you see today), the place has had other famous residents in later years. The most notable of these was labor leader John L. Lewis, who moved in during 1937 as the head of the United Mine Workers, soon created the Congress of Industrial Organizations as a rival to the American Federation of Labor, and helped merge both groups in the 1940s; he lived here until his death in 1969.

The Lyceum

201 S Washington St, Alexandria ⓣ703/838-4994, ⓦwww.alexandriahistory.org. Mon–Sat 10am–5pm, Sun 1–5pm. The Lyceum houses the town's history museum in a magisterial Greek Revival building dating to 1839. It was designed to be a centerpiece for the town's cultural pretensions, the evocative name harkening back to Greek hubs for learning, discussion, and public oration. Although the place doesn't quite have the same role today, its changing displays, film shows, and associated art gallery can put some flesh on the town's history; varied exhibits range from old photographs and Civil War documents to locally produced furniture and silverware (the latter an Alexandrian specialty in the nineteenth century).

The Athenaeum

201 Prince St, Alexandria ⓣ703/548-0035, ⓦwww.nvfaa.org. Wed–Fri 11am–3pm, Sat 1–3pm, Sun 1–4pm. Like the Lyceum an ancient-styled edifice, the Athenaeum has a similar Greek-influenced look with its mighty columns and high pediment, but like other American buildings with the same style, this was built as a bank. Nowadays, though, it's an art center, where you can check out the latest modern art in a series of galleries, take in performances of music, dance, and theater, or listen in on a lecture devoted to the arts.

Alexandria waterfront

Eighteenth-century Alexandria wouldn't recognize its twenty-first-century waterfront beyond North Union Street, not the

least because the riverbank is several blocks farther east, following centuries of landfill. Where there were once wooden warehouses and wharves heaving with barrels of tobacco, there's now a smart marina and boardwalk, framed by the green stretches of Founders Park to the north and Waterfront Park to the south. In front of the Food Pavilion, forty-minute sightseeing cruises depart (May–Aug Tues–Sun, April & Sept–Oct Sat–Sun only; $8); longer trips run to DC or Mount Vernon and back. For information, visit the Potomac Riverboat Company (☎703/548-9000, ⓦwww.potomacriverboatco.com).

Before this area was cleaned up, the US government built a torpedo factory on the river, which operated until the end of World War II. Restyled as the diverting **Torpedo Factory Arts Center** (daily 10am–5pm; free; ☎703/838-4565, ⓦwww.torpedofactory.org), its three floors contain the studios of more than two hundred artists. All the studios are open to the public, displaying sculpture, ceramics, jewelry, glassware, and textiles in regularly changing exhibitions. Take a look, too, inside the center's **Alexandria Archaeology Museum** (Tues–Fri 10am–3pm, Sat 10am–5pm, Sun 1–5pm; ☎703/838-4399, ⓦwww.alexandriaarchaeology.org), where much of the town's restoration work was carried out and where you can see ongoing preservation efforts in a laboratory open to the public.

George Washington Masonic Memorial

101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria ☎703/683-2007, ⓦwww.gwmemorial.org. Daily 9am–5pm. In a town bursting with Washington mementos, nothing is more prominent than the George Washington Masonic Memorial, whose 333ft tower – built on top of a Greek temple – looms over town behind the King Street Metro station. The tower was designed to resemble nothing less than the long-destroyed Lighthouse at (a much further away) Alexandria, one of the seven ancient wonders of the world. The Virginian Freemasons built this memorial in Washington's honor in 1932, deeming him a "deserving brother." Inside, the glorious visual ode continues with a towering, 17ft bronze statue of the general and president, sundry memorabilia, and dioramas depicting events from his life. To see this, and the superb views from the observation platform, you'll have to wait for a forty-minute tour, which leaves from the hall (on the half-hour in the morning, on the hour in the afternoon, last tour 4pm). But even from the steps outside, the views are magnificent, across the Potomac to the Washington Monument and Capitol dome in the distance.

Mount Vernon

3200 George Washington Memorial Pkwy ☎703/780-2000, ⓦwww.mountvernon.org. Daily April–Aug 8am–5pm, March & Sept–Oct 9am–5pm, Nov–Feb 9am–4pm. $11. Set on a shallow bluff overlooking the broad Potomac River, sixteen miles south of Washington DC, Mount Vernon is among the most attractive historic houses in America. The beloved country estate of George Washington, it was his home for forty years, during which he ran it as a thriving and progressive farm, anticipating the decline in Virginia's tobacco cultivation and planting instead grains and food crops with great success. When he died, he was

Visiting Mount Vernon

To reach Mount Vernon via public transit, take the Metro's Yellow Line to Huntington station and then catch Fairfax Connector Bus #101 (hourly; ☎703/339-7200, ⓦwww.fairfaxcounty.gov/connector). It's an easy enough route, though it takes over an hour. A cab from the station costs around $20 (call White Top Cab at ☎703/644-4500). Drivers can follow the George Washington Parkway from DC; there's free parking. Alternatively, join a boat cruise in Old Town Alexandria or bike the Mount Vernon Trail, which runs here from Arlington. To beat the crowds, especially in summer, come early or midweek.

buried on the grounds and now lies next to his wife, Martha, in a simple family tomb.

The path up to the mansion passes various outbuildings, including a renovated set of former slave quarters. Ninety slaves lived and worked in the mansion grounds alone, and though there's evidence that Washington was a kinder master than most – for instance, refusing to sell children away from their parents, allowing slaves to raise their own crops, and engaging the services of a doctor for them – they still lived lives of deprivation and overwork.

Nearby, a small museum traces Washington's ancestry and displays porcelain from the house, medals, weapons, silver, and a series of striking miniatures, by Charles Willson Peale and his brother James, of Martha and her two children by her first marriage.

Around the corner, fronting the circular courtyard, stands the mansion itself, with the bowling green stretching before it. It's a handsome, harmonious wooden structure, reasonably modest but sporting stunning views from the East Lawn. The wooden exterior was painted white, beveled, and sand-blasted to resemble stone; inside, the Palladian windows and brightly painted and papered rooms follow the fashion of the day, while the contents are based on an inventory prepared after Washington's death. Fourteen rooms are open to the public: portrait-filled parlors and cramped bedrooms, and the chamber where Washington breathed his last on a four-poster bed still in situ.

After touring the mansion there's plenty more to see on the grounds, including the separate kitchen, stables, smokehouse, overseer's quarters, kitchen garden, and shrubberies. There's also a forest trail nature walk, and you can take a stroll down to the tomb, where two marble sarcophagi for George and Martha are set behind iron gates. Nearby lies a slave burial ground, while beyond there's a site where demonstrations of the crop-growing

▼MOUNT VERNON GROUNDS

▲PORTRAITS, MOUNT VERNON

and farming techniques used by Washington are occasionally held.

Finally, located three miles west of the estate along Highway 235, **George Washington's gristmill** (April–Oct daily 10am–5pm; $4, or $2 with Mount Vernon admission) provides a glimpse into the tedious labor involved with mashing grain to make it usable for other purposes. Guides in costume go through the rigors of showing how water-power drove the mill and how it produced flour from corn, wheat, and other cereals.

Woodlawn Plantation

9000 Richmond Hwy ⓣ703/780-4000, ⓦwww.woodlawnplantation.org. March–Dec daily 10am–5pm. $7.50. Not far from George Washington's gristmill, near the intersection of highways 1 and 235, lie the expansive grounds of Woodlawn Plantation, which used to be a part of the Mount Vernon estate until, after Washington's 1799 death, two-thousand acres were ceded to his nephew Major Lawrence and Martha Washington's granddaughter Eleanor Custis Lewis. From that sizable parcel grew this impressive red-brick Georgian manor house (finished in 1805), which was built by no less than US Capitol architect William Thornton using Palladian design elements, its decorative trim fashioned from local sandstone. However, the substantial labor involved in the house's making – all the bricks were fired in a kiln at the site – meant that slave labor was used in abundance.

Pope-Leighey House

Woodlawn Plantation, same hours and details, ⓦwww.popeleighey1940.org. Combined Woodlawn ticket $13. Almost incongruously, Woodlawn Plantation is also the site of a house designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, whose broad notions of the democratic spirit enabled him to develop "Usonian" houses meant to be affordable to common people. The Pope-Leighey House is one such experiment, and while the Usonian trend never really caught on, it did allow him to try some rather radical concepts within the strict limitations of budget, size, and labor. The Pope-Leighey was

Events at Mount Vernon

Throughout the year, Mount Vernon hosts a range of festivals and special events. Around the third weekend in February, Washington's birthday is celebrated with a wreath-laying ceremony and fife and drum parades; admission to Mount Vernon is free at this time. Each May, a three-day festival toasts local winemakers in a series of evening events featuring live jazz and visits to the cellar vaults. In December, special Christmas tours re-create the Washingtons' yuletide celebrations, and, on weekend winter evenings (late Nov to mid-Dec), special "Mount Vernon by Candlelight" tours cast a nocturnal glow on this historic site. Book ahead for a candlelight visit or for the wine festival; a special admission price applies.

moved here from another Virginia location when threatened with demolition. Luckily it survived, for this smallish, 1200-square-foot residence says much about Wright's building concepts: the materials are limited to wood, brick, concrete, and glass; the layout is strongly horizontal, with trellises to control direct sunlight; the clerestory windows employ unique cut-out patterns; and the floor plan is open and the ceilings low, except for that of the living room, which rises to thirteen feet and occupies about half the overall space of the house.

Shops

American in Paris

1225 King St, Alexandria ☎703/519-8234. As the name suggests, one of the top spots in town to get your fix of fashionable European designer-wear, as well as unique clothes from local designers.

Artcraft Collection

132 King St, Alexandria ☎703/299-6616. A strange and impressive collection of handcrafted artifacts – furniture painted in bizarre colors, exquisitely detailed atomizers, oddball sculptures, anthropomorphic teapots, and high-heeled doorstops, to name but a few.

Arts Afire

102 N Fayette St, Alexandria ☎703/838-9785. On the west side of Old Town, a major dealer in art glass, with a full complement of work from regional and national designers on display, everything from jewelry and home decor to kaleidoscopes, vases, and trinkets.

Card & Comic Collectorama

2008 Mount Vernon Ave, Alexandria ☎703/548-3466. A few miles north of Old Town, and hardly the type of place you might expect to find in this burg, but worth a trip for its stock of ancient Disney memorabilia, long-forgotten trading cards and rare comics, and all manner of other curious castoffs.

Imagine Artwear

1124 King St, Alexandria ☎703/548-1461. Vivid array of fashions bridging the gap between the aesthetic and the functional – brightly colored and detailed garments that could pass for tapestries, unique handcrafted jewelry and accessories, and more.

Cafés

Ecco Café

220 N Lee St, Alexandria ☎703/684-0321. Fine gourmet pizza and pasta joint with a neighborhood feel, featuring lunch specials, homemade noodles, decent steak and seafood, and a jazz brunch on Sunday.

Five Guys

107 N Fayette St, Alexandria ☎703/549-7991. This Old Town greasy spoon cooks its juicy hamburgers to order, piles on the fixings, and tucks 'em in a heavenly bun. The result? The best burger in the entire region, hands down. One of eight local branches.

Hard Times Café

1404 King St, Alexandria ☎703/837-0050. Four styles of fiery chili; good wings, rings, and fries; tub-thumping country music; and savory microbrews add up to one of Alexandria's better Tex-Mex/American restaurants. Located near the Metro station.

La Piazza

535 E Braddock Rd, Alexandria

☎703/519-7711. Less than a mile north of Old Town and a solid choice if a hoagie's what you crave, here made with generous portions of meat and cheese, and just enough pepper, spice, and sauces to do the trick.

Restaurants

Blue Point Grill

600 Franklin St, Alexandria ☎703/739-0404. Fresh, damn good seafood earns this Old Town jewel its reputation as one of Alexandria's best restaurants. In warmer weather pass up sitting in the elegant dining room for a spot on the veranda.

▲BLUE POINT GRILL

Cajun Bangkok

907 King St, Alexandria ☎703/836-0038. Incendiary blend of Thai and Cajun fare, with tasty jerk chicken, "crying tiger" (grilled steak with a spicy sauce), and a zesty gumbo.

Fish Market

105 King St, Alexandria ☎703/836-5676. Brick-walled restaurant with terrace a block from the water, serving oysters and chowder at the bar and fried-fish platters, pastas, and fish entrees, not to mention a mean spicy shrimp meal.

Las Tapas

710 King St, Alexandria ☎703/836-4000. Best of the local tapas bars, with a wide selection of authentic small plates, plus rich paella, glass after glass of tasty sangria, and regular (free) flamenco sessions.

South Austin Grill

801 King St, Alexandria ☎703/684-8969. Quality Tex-Mex fare packs lively crowds into this Old Town institution. The Cadillac-sized fajitas, stacked nachos, taste-bud-tingling salsas, and zesty margaritas make the long waits worthwhile.

Southside 815

815 S Washington St, Alexandria ☎703/836-6222. Deep-fried Southern cooking, heavy with good old-fashioned favorites like biscuits with ham gravy, thick and buttery cornbread, BBQ shrimp, crab fritters, and straight-up crawdads and catfish.

Bars

Founder's Restaurant and Brewing

607 King St, Alexandria ☎703/684-5397. Recent brewpub arrival serving up a mix of American pale ales and stouts, along with German-style Kolsch and altbier. Also serves decent food and a Sunday brunch for under $10.

Murphy's Grand Irish Pub

713 King St, Alexandria ☎703/548-1717. Old Town's nightlife revolves around this boisterous pub, pouring the city's best pint

of Guinness. Local solo acts perform upstairs, while a central fireplace and chow like Irish stew add much Emerald Isle atmosphere.

Shenandoah Brewing Co.

652 S Pickett St, Alexandria ☎703/823-9508. A fine combination pub-and-brewing-academy, where you can learn how to make your own beer as well as munch on spicy chili and sample such beverages as Whitewater Wheat, Stony Man Stout, and Old Rag Mountain Ale. Well away from the Old Town action on the south side of town, but worth seeking out.

Union Street Public House

121 S Union St, Alexandria ☎703/548-1785. Hard to miss this red-brick spot with gas lamps – a good steak-and-seafood joint that's just as nice for eating as drinking, with its own handcrafted and hearty microbrews. Very popular on weekends.

Clubs and live music

The Barns at Wolf Trap

1645 Trap Rd, Vienna, VA ☎703/938-2404, ⓦwww.wolftrap.org. Concerts Oct–May; opera June–Sept. Northwest of Alexandria, via Highway 7, this so-called Kennedy Center of folk music is devoted to American music in all its native forms – blues, bluegrass, jazz, ragtime, Cajun, zydeco, Native American, Tex-Mex, and countless other types and hybrids. Other venues include the modern Filene Center and a theatrical stage; in the summer the barns host local performances of classic operas.

Birchmere

3701 Mount Vernon Ave, Alexandria ☎703/549-7500, ⓦwww.birchmere.com. A few miles north of Old Town, an excellent, longstanding country, blues, and folk club with an A-list of current and retro acoustic performers, including some up-and-comers. Nightly gigs; ticket prices vary widely depending on the act.

Laporta's

1600 Duke St, Alexandria ☎703/683-6313. Less than a mile west of the main Old Town action, an upscale seafood restaurant with a good range of jazz acts performing nightly.

State Theatre

220 N Washington St, Falls Church, VA ☎703/237-0300, ⓦwww.thestatetheater.com. Suburban venue and stylish former moviehouse that rewards a drive if you like country, folk, or blues music, often for affordable prices. Sometimes mixes it up with retread rockers and novelty acts as well.

Tiffany Tavern

1116 King St, Alexandria ☎703/836-8844. It's all about bluegrass on the weekends at this Old Town haunt, which also presents open-mike nights the rest of the week, but is best for its folk-flavored local and regional performers.

Zig's Bar & Grill

4531 Duke St, Alexandria ☎703/823-2777, ⓦwww.zigsbar.com. Although located in a cultural no-mans-land between Old Town and the freeway (a few miles west of the main scene), this is a prime venue for regional bands of all stripes, with good jazz and rock acts, and biweekly Sunday-night "jazz poetry" events.

Accommodation

Hotels

One of the highlights of staying in Washington DC is cozying up in a swank hotel in the historic center and having the entire District at your feet, either literally or through the Metro system. Although the usual chain-hotel suspects are well represented, DC also has its share of marvelous old piles – grand hotels that date back a hundred years or more and still draw the swells and political elite. Of course, unless you're willing to drop $200 or more a night for such features, you may be out of luck. Standard room rates throughout the city start at around $100–120 a night, but there's plenty of scope for negotiation for canny travelers.

There are hotels in all the main downtown areas, though those near the White House, on Capitol Hill, and in Georgetown tend to be business-oriented and pricey. The occasional budget option exists in Foggy Bottom and Old Downtown, while most of the chain hotels and mid-range places are in New Downtown – particularly on the streets around Scott and Thomas circles. Outer neighborhoods tend to have a wider selection of smaller, cheaper hotels and B&B-style guesthouses (see p.183), and it's no hardship at all to be staying in Dupont Circle, Adams-Morgan, or Upper Northwest – you'll probably be eating and drinking in these places anyway. We've also listed a few options in Alexandria, VA, though it's easy to see that city on a day-trip from the capital. Any accommodation not listed on the map in this chapter (p.178) can be found on the relevant chapter map in the Places section.

Adams-Morgan

Courtyard by Marriott 1900 Connecticut Ave NW ⓣ202/332-9300 or 1-800/321-3211, ⓦwww.courtyard.com/wasnw. The top-floor rooms of this well-located hillside

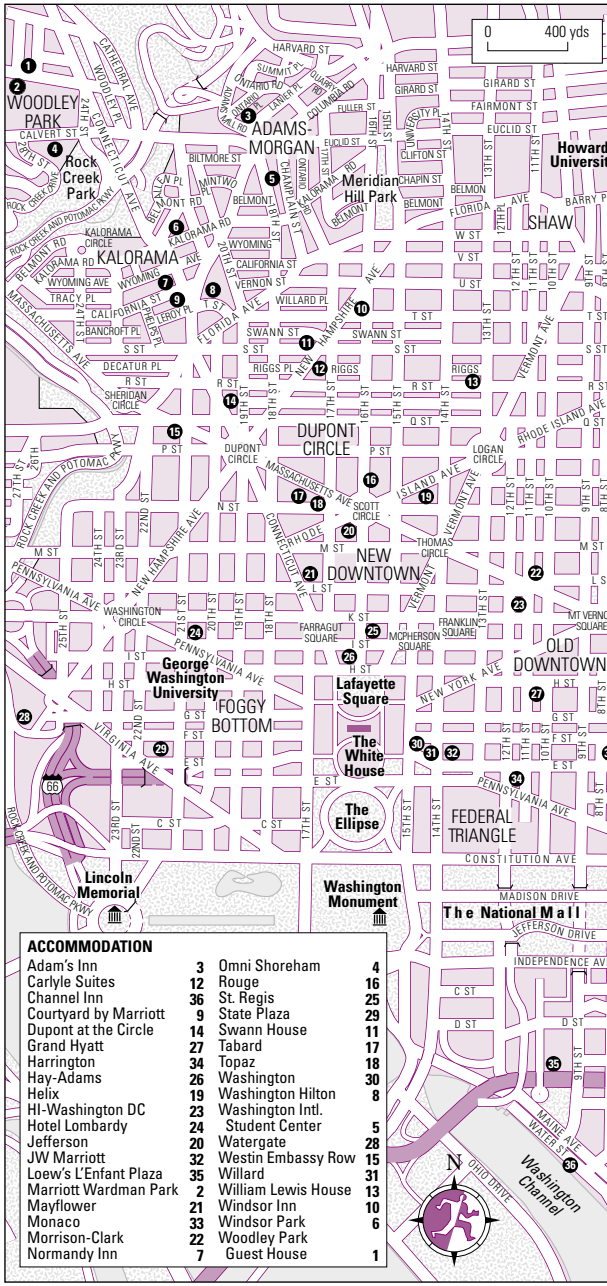
Accommodation practicalities

Rates in this chapter refer to the approximate cost of a standard double room in peak season – late-spring to mid-summer – and do not include the city's hotel tax of 14.5 percent. Many hotels discount their rates on weekends (some by up to fifty percent), while prices are typically lower from late-autumn to winter. You're more likely to be able to park for free in the outer neighborhoods; garage parking is available at most downtown hotels, but you'll be charged $20–30 a night for the privilege.

Very occasionally, an inn or hotel we list is on the cusp of a slightly iffy neighborhood; where safety is an issue, we've said so, and you're advised to take taxis back to your hotel at night in these areas.

Hotel reservation services

Bed & Breakfast Accommodations ⓣ413/582-9888, ⓦwww.bedandbreakfastdc.com
Bed & Breakfast League ⓣ202/363-7767
Capitol Reservations ⓣ202/452-1270 or 1-800/847-4832, ⓦwww.capitolreservations.com
Washington DC Accommodations ⓣ202/289-2220 or 1-800/554-2220, ⓦwww.washingtondcaccommodations.com



ACCOMMODATION

Adam's Inn	3	Omni Shoreham	4
Carlyle Suites	12	Rouge	16
Channel Inn	36	St. Regis	25
Courtyard by Marriott	9	State Plaza	29
Dupont at the Circle	14	Swann House	11
Grand Hyatt	27	Tabard	17
Harrington	34	Topaz	18
Hay-Adams	26	Washington	30
Helix	19	Washington Hilton	8
HI-Washington DC	23	Washington Intl. Student Center	5
Hotel Lombardy	24	Watergate	28
Jefferson	20	Westin Embassy Row	15
JW Marriott	32	Willard	31
Loew's L'Enfant Plaza	35	William Lewis House	13
Marriott Wardman Park	2	Windsor Inn	10
Mayflower	21	Windsor Park	6
Monaco	33	Woodley Park Guest House	1
Morrison-Clark	22		
Normandy Inn	7		

hotel have splendid views. Free Web access, gym, outdoor pool, and good prices for the area, which is a short walk from the heart of both Dupont Circle and Adams-Morgan. $120.

Normandy Inn 2118 Wyoming Ave NW ☎202/483-1350 or 1-800/424-3729, 🌐www.jurys.com. Quiet hotel in upscale neighborhood, with comfortable rooms (each with fridge and coffeemaker) and free high-speed Internet access. Coffee and cookies are served daily, and there's a weekly wine and cheese reception. $120.

Washington Hilton 1919 Connecticut Ave NW ☎202/483-3000 or 1-800/445-8667, 🌐www.hilton.com. Massive, 1100-room, 1960s convention hotel midway between Dupont Circle and Adams-Morgan. Rooms are a bit smallish, but most have good views. Facilities include pool, health club, tennis courts, and bike rental. $240.

Windsor Park 2116 Kalorama Rd NW ☎202/483-7700 or 1-800/247-3064, 🌐www.windsorparkhotel.com. Pleasant, vaguely Victorian rooms outfitted with cable TV, and eight suites, just off Connecticut Avenue. Continental breakfast included. $110.

Alexandria

Best Western Old Colony Inn 1101 N Washington St ☎703/739-2222, 🌐www.bestwestern.com. Affordable choice with the standard amenities (with free breakfast and Web access) that's one of the better chain options for Old Town – which doesn't have as many unique hotel choices as you might expect. $130.

Holiday Inn 480 King St ☎703/549-6080 or 1-800/368-5047, 🌐www.holidayinnwashingtondc.com. Alexandria's best-situated hotel, just off Market Square, makes a great base for exploring. There's an indoor pool, and many rooms have balconies overlooking a quiet internal courtyard. The hotel is pet-friendly, too. $180.

Morrison House 116 S Alfred St ☎703/838-8000 or 1-800/367-0800, 🌐www.morrisonhouse.com. Faux Federal-era townhouse (built in 1985) complete with ersatz "authentic" decor like parlor, parquet floors and crystal chandeliers, yet with modern comforts like high-speed Internet connections and designer linens. There's also an acclaimed restaurant. $250.

Arlington

Hilton Garden Inn 1333 N Court House Rd ☎1-800/528-4444, 🌐www.hiltongardeninn.com. Useful chain hotel near a Metro stop, with suites featuring fridges, microwaves, and Internet access, plus business center and gym. Save $30 by coming on a weekend, otherwise $180.

Hyatt Arlington 1333 N Court House Rd ☎1-800/528-4444, 🌐arlington.hyatt.com. Recently renovated corporate property in a prime location near the Rosslyn Metro station, as well as Georgetown and Arlington National Cemetery, with standard chain features plus gym and Internet access. $220.

Capitol Hill

Capitol Hill Suites 200 C St SE ☎202/543-6000 or 1-800/424-9165. Popular converted apartments whose renovated suites are all equipped with kitchenettes or proper kitchens, plus free morning coffee, muffins and juice, Internet access, and daily paper. Busy when Congress is in session – on weekends and in August the price drops $50–70; otherwise $200.

George 15 E St NW ☎202/347-4200 or 1-800/576-8331, 🌐www.hotelgeorge.com. Postmodern design meets 1928 Art Deco architecture, resulting in sleek lines, contemporary room furnishings (dark wood and glass, with copious Washington imagery), great marble bathrooms, in-room CD players, and a trendy bar-bistro. Weekend rates are $40–50 cheaper, otherwise $320.

Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill 400 New Jersey Ave NW ☎202/737-1234 or 1-800/233-1234, 🌐washingtonregency.hyatt.com. Two blocks from Union Station, an 800-room luxury hotel that features a multistory atrium, pool, and gym – and a few rooms with views of the Capitol. Newly remodeled rooms with sleek black-and-cream furnishings give a modern spritz to formerly staid units. Rates can drop by up to $100 on weekends, otherwise $220.

Phoenix Park 520 N Capitol St NW ☎202/638-6900 or 1-800/824-5419, 🌐www.pparkhotel.com. Elegant rooms in an Irish-owned hotel – loaded with dark wood, paintings, and old-country style –

located across from Union Station. Popular with politicos, who frequent the associated *Dubliner* pub. There's a good restaurant, too, serving hearty breakfasts. $300 for basic room, suites start at $100 more.

Foggy Bottom

Lombardy 2019 Pennsylvania Ave NW ⓣ202/828-2600 or 1-800/424-5486, ⓦwww.hotellombardy.com. Red-brick apartment-style hotel, renovated with art and modern furnishings, in good Pennsylvania Avenue location, close to two Metro stations. Spacious rooms, most with kitchenettes and coffeemakers; the café has outdoor seating and is good for breakfast. $180.

State Plaza 2117 E St NW ⓣ202/861-8200 or 1-800/424-2859, ⓦwww.stateplaza.com. Commodious, stylish suites with fully equipped kitchens and dining area, plus a rooftop sundeck, health club, and good café. There's often room here when other places are full. $145.

Watergate 2650 Virginia Ave NW ⓣ202/965-2300 or 1-800/424-2736, ⓦwww.watergatehotel.com. Iconic Washington hotel synonymous with bad political behavior (see p.96), but otherwise a nice spot with comfortable rooms and suites, some with kitchens, and balconies with river views. New owner has improved the swank factor and jazzed up the rooms, and the complex offers a gym, shops, and services as well as the primo *Aquarelle* restaurant. Expect to save $80 on weekends, otherwise $280.

Georgetown

Four Seasons 2800 Pennsylvania Ave NW ⓣ202/342-0444 or 1-800/332-3442, ⓦwww.fourseasons.com. One of DC's most luxurious hotels – a modern red-brick pile at the eastern end of Georgetown – with lavish rooms and suites with views of Rock Creek Park or the C&O Canal. Service is superb, and there's a pool, fitness center, and Garden Terrace bar-lounge. Save $100 on weekends, otherwise $400.

Georgetown Inn 1310 Wisconsin Ave NW ⓣ202/333-8900 or 1-800/424-2979, ⓦwww.georgetowninn.com. Stylish, red-brick hotel in the heart of Georgetown offering tastefully appointed rooms (those off the avenue tend to be quieter) with marble bathrooms, plush decor, and high-speed Internet hookups. $220.

Holiday Inn Georgetown 2101 Wisconsin Ave NW ⓣ202/338-4600 or 1-800/465-4329, ⓦwww.holiday-inn.com. The only relative cheapie in Georgetown – a bit far up Wisconsin Avenue (on the way toward Upper Northwest), though buses and cabs get you down to M Street pretty quickly. Parking, outdoor pool, and fitness room, too. $120.

Latham 3000 M St NW ⓣ202/726-5000 or 1-800/368-5922, ⓦwww.thelatham.com. Well-sited hotel with rooftop pool, sundeck, and one of the city's finest dining experiences, *Citronelle* (see p.156). Some rooms have canal and river views. There are also some superb split-level executive suites with business facilities such as high-speed Internet access and fax/copy machines. A suite may run $100 more; rooms $220.

Monticello 1075 Thomas Jefferson St NW ⓣ202/337-0900 or 1-800/388-2410, ⓦwww.hotelmonticello.com. All-suite hotel nicely located off M Street, near the canal towpath, with spacious standard suites and some two-level penthouses that sleep up to six; all units have a wet bar, microwave, and fridge. Free Internet access in the business center. Summers see a small saving, as do some weekends. $180.

New Downtown and Dupont Circle

Carlyle Suites 1731 New Hampshire Ave NW ⓣ202/234-3200 or 1-866/468-3532, ⓦwww.carlylesuites.com. An Art Deco-styled structure whose furnishings have been upgraded, though the rooms are more functional than fancy. Still, with high-speed Internet hookups, kitchenettes with fridges and microwaves, and an on-site café and laundry, it's a good choice for the area. $130.

Hay-Adams 800 16th St NW ⓣ202/638-6600 or 1-800/424-5054, ⓦwww.hayadams.com. One of DC's finest hotels (see p.92), from the gold-leaf and walnut lobby to the sleekly modern rooms and the suites with fireplaces and original cornices, marble bathrooms, balconies, and high

ceilings (which can cost thousands per night). Upper floors have great views of the White House across the square. Breakfast is served in one of the District's better spots for early-morning power dining. $385.

Helix 1430 Rhode Island Ave NW, near Logan Circle ⓣ202/462-9001, ⓦwww.hotelhelix.com. A prime choice if you're into a young, convivial atmosphere and bright, festive design – multicolored furniture, boomerang shapes, and other eye-popping decor. Rooms come in three flavors – the chill-out "Zone," chic "East," and kid-friendly "Bunk." Save $70 or so on weekends, otherwise $190.

Jefferson 1200 16th St NW ⓣ202/347-2200 or 1-800/365-5966, ⓦwww.thejeffersonhotel.com. Patrician landmark on 16th Street, a bit away from the main action, but still a favorite since the 1920s for its antique-strewn interior, with busts, oils, and porcelain at every turn, fine restaurant, and nicely stylish rooms. Weekend rates can fall to less than $200 a night. $340.

Mayflower 1127 Connecticut Ave NW ⓣ202/347-3000 or 1-800/228-7697, ⓦwww.renaissancehotels.com/WASSH. Beautiful and sumptuous Washington classic, with a Promenade – a vast, imperial hall – that seems endless from the lobby; smart rooms with subtle, tasteful furnishings; and the terrific *Café Promenade* restaurant (see p.127) that's much in demand by power diners. If there's one spot in DC where the national and international political elite come to roost, this is it. $320.

Rouge 1315 16th St NW ⓣ202/232-8000, ⓦwww.rougehotel.com. Dupont's Circle hippest hotel (though it's actually on nearby Thomas Circle), where the 137 sleek rooms are outfitted with crimson velvet drapes, red leatherette headboards, swanky art and decor, and minibars stuffed with the likes of Redi-Whip and condoms. The ground-floor bar-lounge is a definite highlight (and a real weekend scene) where you can also indulge in a complimentary cold pizza and Bloody Marys – for breakfast. $220.

St Regis Washington 923 16th St NW ⓣ202/638-2626 or 1-800/562-5661, ⓦwww.starwood.com/stregis. President Calvin Coolidge cut the ribbon opening this 1920s Italian Renaissance classic, located a few blocks north of the White House and rich with antiques, chandeliers, and a carved wooden ceiling in the lobby that looks right out of a European palace. As one of the cozier of DC's top-shelf luxury items, it features elegant rooms with stylish appointments, plus on-site gym and business center. $315.

Tabard Inn 1739 N St NW ⓣ202/785-1277, ⓦwww.tabardinn.com. Three converted Victorian townhouses, two blocks from Dupont Circle, with forty unique, antique-stocked rooms, with an odd mix of modern and old-fashioned decor. Laid-back staff, comfortable lounges with romantic fireplaces, courtyard, and an excellent restaurant. Rates include breakfast and a pass to the nearby YMCA. Save at least $40, if you share a bath; otherwise $140.

Topaz 1733 N St NW ⓣ202/393-3000, ⓦwww.topazhotel.com. Boutique hotel brings West Coast flash to quiet N Street. Padded headboards with polka dots, lime-green striped wallpaper, and funky furniture add even more spice to the vibrant rooms, several of which also have space for yoga – complete with workout gear and videos – or treadmills, stationary bikes, and elliptical machines. Weekend rates save $20–30, otherwise $230.

Westin Embassy Row 2100 Massachusetts Ave NW ⓣ202/293-2100 or 1-800/WESTIN-1, ⓦwww.starwood.com/westin. Formerly the *Ritz-Carlton* and then the *Fairfax*, this hotel still caters to clubby politicos, media types, and business people who frequent its *Jockey Club* restaurant. Anglo-French country-house chic, with on-site gym and nice rooms with high-speed Web access. Weekend rates drop to $250, otherwise around $300.

Old Downtown

Grand Hyatt 1000 H St NW ⓣ202/582-1234 or 1-800/233-1234, ⓦgrandwashington.hyatt.com. Nearly 900 rooms, but its location opposite the Convention Center keeps it busy during the week. The twelve-story atrium, lagoon, waterfalls, and glass elevators are a definite highlight, but rooms have also been newly renovated and upgraded and are now properly stylish and modern. Also an on-site deli-café, restaurant, and sports bar. Rate can drop by half on weekends; otherwise $275.

Harrington 1100 E St NW ⓣ202/628-8140 or 1-800/424-8532, ⓦ www.hotel-harrington.com. One of the classic old, clean-and-basic downtown hotels, of which few remain these days, with a prime location near Pennsylvania Ave – though the rooms (singles to quads) are a bit worn around the edges. Still, the prices are tough to beat for the area, plus there's cheap parking. $95.

JW Marriott 1331 Pennsylvania Ave NW ⓣ202/393-2000 or 1-800/228-9290, ⓦ www.marriott.com. Flagship Marriott property in one of the best locations in the city, overlooking Freedom Plaza (ask for a room facing the avenue). Rooms are a notch or two above the standard, plus there are several restaurants, a sports bar, and a health club with indoor pool. $330.

Monaco 700 F St NW ⓣ202/628-7177, ⓦ www.monaco-dc.com. Perhaps the most architecturally significant hotel in the area, opened in 2002 in what was once a grand Neoclassical post office designed by Robert Mills (see p.100). The old offices have been remodeled into ultra-chic accommodation, complete with sleek modern rooms (with busts of Jefferson above the armoires), minimalist contemporary decor, and public spaces with marble floors and columns and grand spiral stairways. Weekend rates can drop to $170; otherwise $250.

Morrison-Clark Inn 1015 L St NW ⓣ202/898-1200 or 1-800/332-7898, ⓦ www.morrisonclark.com. Antique-and-lace accommodation in a historic Victorian mansion complete with veranda, located one block from the new convention center and two from the Metro. Fifty-odd rooms in Victorian and other old-fashioned styles, balconies overlooking a courtyard, a comfortable lounge and a good restaurant. Although the area can get dicey at night, this is still one of Old Downtown's better deals. $150.

Washington 515 15th St NW ⓣ202/638-5900 or 1-800/424-9540, ⓦ www.hotelwashington.com. Good value, historic hotel next to the *Willard* and across from the Treasury Building, with a popular rooftop restaurant-bar, the *Sky Terrace* (see p.114), which boasts one of the city's best views, and heavily decorated Edwardian rooms. It rarely needs to offer discount rates, but off-season weekends when Congress isn't in session can reduce costs by $20 or more. $150.

Willard InterContinental 1401 Pennsylvania Ave NW ⓣ202/628-9100 or 1-800/327-0200, ⓦ www.washington.intercontinental.com. A signature, truly iconic Washington hotel that dominates Pershing Park near the Treasury Building. In business on and off since the 1850s, it's a Beaux Arts marvel with acres of marble, mosaics, and glass; stunning lobby and Promenade; finely furnished rooms; and top-drawer clientele thick with politicos, lobbyists, and other honchos. Weekends around $250, weekdays $450.

Upper Northwest

Days Inn 4400 Connecticut Ave NW ⓣ202/244-5600 or 1-800/329-7466, ⓦ www.daysinn.com. Near the University of DC and a Metro stop, and in reasonable vicinity of Rock Creek Park. Has a colorless, bunker-like exterior, but does offer reasonable, if smallish, rooms with all the usual chain-hotel conveniences. $80.

Marriott Wardman Park 2660 Woodley Rd NW ⓣ202/328-2000 or 1-800/228-9290, ⓦ www.marriott.com. Woodley Park's monumentally historic, celebrity-filled hotel-palace (see p.140) that manages to be the largest hotel in DC (and frequent site of political fund-raisers), with two pools, health club, and restaurants bristling with attentive staff. Very good weekend and off-season discounts (down to $160) make this more affordable than you might think, though convention business keeps rooms full most of the year. $330.

Omni Shoreham 2500 Calvert St NW ⓣ202/234-0700 or 1-800/843-6664, ⓦ www.omnihotels.com. Plush, grand Washington institution (see p.140) bursting with history and overlooking the south chasm of Rock Creek Park. Features include swank, comfortable rooms – which have been recently renovated – many with a view of the park, outdoor pool and tennis courts, and the foliage-filled Garden Court for drinks. $250.

Waterfront

Channel Inn 650 Water St SW ⓣ202/554-2400 or 1-800/368-5668, ⓦ www.channelinn.com. The city's first

(and, thus far, only) hotel right on the waterfront, a 1970s development at the Washington Channel, with some rooms looking across to East Potomac Park. There's free parking, an outdoor pool, lounge, and sundeck, plus a choice of serviceable seafood restaurants nearby. $140.

Loews L'Enfant Plaza 480 L'Enfant Plaza SW ⓣ202/484-1000 or 1-800/235-6397, ⓦwww.loewshotels.com. Chic modern hotel, a couple of blocks south of the Mall (and north of the waterfront itself) and with direct access to the Metro. Spacious rooms in nineteenth-century French style (but not retro-tacky), most with river or city views, plus health club and rooftop pool. Special winter and weekend rates apply – inquire ahead. Pet-friendly. $160.

B&Bs

Although Washington DC isn't quite the prime bed-and-breakfast territory you might expect – you'd have to search the hills of Maryland or northern Virginia for that – it does offer a handful of affordable, reasonably elegant spots that provide a relaxing respite for visitors who like to mix with other, historic-minded tourists. No, you won't be able to decamp in Aaron Burr's parlor, but you may be able to grab a bed in a centuries-old house in a classic section of town – just make sure you're not allergic to chintz.

Adams Inn 1744 Lanier Place NW, Adams-Morgan ⓣ202/745-3600 or 1-800/578-6807, ⓦwww.adamsinn.com. Clean, simple rooms in three adjoining Victorian townhouses on a quiet residential street. No TVs, but free breakfast, garden patio, and laundry. Sharing a bath saves you $10; otherwise $95.

Arlington Guesthouse 739 S 22nd St, Arlington, VA ⓣ703/768-0335, ⓦwww.americanguesthouse.com/Arlington.htm. Bare-bones lodging, but some of the cheapest in the area (down to $55 off-season), and near the Pentagon City Metro. Four rooms have single and double beds, with some dorm units – add $10–20 per extra adult. $75.

Bull Moose B&B 101 Fifth St NE, Capitol Hill ⓣ202/547-1050 or 1-800/261-2768, ⓦwww.bullmoose-b-and-b.com. Turreted brick Victorian evokes environmental and political themes from legendary US president and Bull Moose Party founder Teddy Roosevelt – from tropical Panama to the charge up San Juan Hill. The ten guest rooms (some en suite) lack phones, but phone, fax, and Internet access are all available. Other extras include free continental breakfast, evening sherry, and use of a kitchen. $110.

Dupont at the Circle 1604 19th St NW, Dupont Circle ⓣ202/332-5251 or 1-888/412-0100, ⓦwww.dupontatthecircle.com. Eight handsome rooms – high ceilings, kitchenettes, marble bathrooms – in a Victorian townhouse near the circle (at Q St). Free continental breakfast included; offers higher-priced packages (for $100–400 over room rate) with wine, chocolates, and facials, and names like the "Metrosexual Special." $140.

Hereford House 604 South Carolina Ave SE, Capitol Hill ⓣ202/543-0102, ⓦwww.bbonline.com/dc/hereford. Century-old white, brick townhouse with hardwood floors, small garden, and bright, reasonably sized rooms (no TVs) in residential Capitol Hill, just a block from the Metro. Just four, somewhat cramped rooms (sharing two bathrooms), plus three more (with no breakfast) in a separate house five minutes away (also shared bath). $74.

Kalorama Guest House at Woodley Park 2700 Cathedral Ave NW, Upper Northwest ⓣ202/328-0860. Agreeable and friendly Victorian charm not far from the Metro in Woodley Park. Two houses (19 rooms, 12 en suite) provide good service and facilities – comfortable brass beds,

free continental breakfast, aperitifs, papers, and coffee. Book well in advance. Rooms with shared bathrooms go for $60, private bathrooms tack on another $20, and suites go for another $30 over that.

Swann House 1808 New Hampshire Ave NW, Dupont Circle ⓣ202/265-4414, ⓦwww.swannhouse.com. Elegant B&B in an 1883 Romanesque Revival mansion with striking red-brick arches, gables, and turrets, a ten-minute walk from both Dupont Circle and Adams-Morgan. There are nine individually decorated rooms – some with working fireplaces – as well as porches and decks for reclining, and a private garden with fountain. Free continental breakfast, afternoon refreshments, and an early-evening sherry to round out the day. $140.

William Lewis House 1309 R St NW, Logan Circle ⓣ202/462-7574 or 1-800/465-7574, ⓦwww.wlewishous.com. Elegantly decorated, gay-friendly B&B set in two century-old townhouses north of Logan Circle (and within blocks of Shaw), with ten antique-filled rooms, all with shared bath. Out back there's a roomy porch and a hot tub set in a garden. Rates include continental breakfast on weekdays and a full American breakfast on weekends. It's ultra-cheap for what you get, so reservations are essential. $80.

Windsor Inn 1842 16th St NW, Dupont Circle ⓣ202/667-0300 or 1-800/423-9111. Not too far from the Dupont Circle Metro, with units in twin brick 1920s houses and spacious suites. Ground-floor rooms look onto a terrace; some rooms have fridges. Free continental breakfast, served in the attractive lobby. No on-site parking. $90.

Woodley Park Guest House 2647 Woodley Rd NW, Upper Northwest ⓣ202/667-0218 or 1-866/667-0218, ⓦwww.woodleyparkguesthouse.com. Pleasant guest house on residential Woodley Park side street (opposite the *Marriott*) offering a quiet refuge, with 16 rooms (most en suite), ample parking, and free continental breakfast. It's well located near the Metro, the zoo, and a swath of good restaurants along Connecticut Avenue. Reservations essential. $100.

Hostels

For true budget-seekers DC has a few cheapie options – either actual or de facto hostels – scattered around if you know where to look.

HI-Washington DC 1009 11th St NW, Old Downtown ⓣ202/737-2333, ⓦwww.hiwashingtondc.org. Well-sited main DC hostel near the new Convention Center, with free continental breakfast, high-speed Web access, renovated dorm rooms (male and female), and shared bathrooms. Also offers internships and volunteer opportunities. Members save $3 on daily room rate. $29.

Washington International Student Center 2451 18th St NW, Adams-Morgan ⓣ202/667-7681 or 1-800/567-4150, ⓦwww.washingtondchostel.com. Backpackers' accommodation in plain multi-bedded dorm rooms, with Internet access, lockers for personal belongings, cable TV, and free pickup from bus and train stations. Downtown DC's cheapest bed, but you may find the cramped surroundings, shared bathrooms, and "traveling" crowd tiresome after a while. Book at least two weeks in advance. $22.

William Penn House 515 E Capitol St SE, Capitol Hill ⓣ202/543-5560, ⓦwww.quaker.org/penn-house. One of the least expensive spots in town, in a prime location just blocks from the Capitol – which is the whole idea. This Quaker-run hostel doesn't require religious observance, but does prefer that guests be active in progressive causes. Dorm rooms hold 4–10 people, breakfast is included; there's no curfew, but also no drugs or booze allowed. Morning services available, if you're interested. $35.

Essentials

Arrival

Those traveling to Washington DC by train or bus arrive at the most central locations: Union Station and the downtown Greyhound terminal, respectively. Union Station is linked by Metro to the city center, as is Reagan National Airport if you're arriving by plane. For Dulles and BWI airports, you can't count on being downtown much within the hour, though the various transfers are smooth enough.

By air

The most convenient destination for domestic arrivals is **National Airport** (DCA; ⓣ 703/417-8000, ⓦ www.mwaa.com/national) – officially, Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport – four miles south of downtown in Virginia. It takes thirty minutes to an hour to reach downtown DC by road, though National Airport has its own Metro station, making the subway the clear choice for transit. A taxi downtown costs about $14–17 (including airport surcharge). Another option is SuperShuttle (24hr service; one-way $14; ⓣ 1-800/BLUE-VAN), which will drop you wherever you like.

The area's major airport is **Dulles International** (IAD; ⓣ703/572-2700, ⓦ www.mwaa.com/dulles), 26 miles west in northern Virginia. Taxis downtown run $45–55, while SuperShuttle costs $22. It's cheaper to take the Washington Flyer Express bus (every 30min, Mon–Fri 5.45am–10.15pm, Sat & Sun 7.45am–10.15pm; one-way $8, round-trip $14; ⓦ www.washfly.com) to the West Falls Church Metro station, a thirty-minute ride, from where the train ride into DC takes twenty minutes. The most inexpensive option is to take public transit all the way into town: catch Metrobus #5A from the airport, which connects with the Metrorail at the Rosslyn and L'Enfant Plaza Metro stations.

The area's third main airport, **Baltimore-Washington International Airport** (BWI; ⓣ 301/261-1000, ⓦ www.bwiairport.com), lies 25 miles northeast of DC. From here, taxis to the city cost about $55, while SuperShuttle vans charge $30–32. It's cheaper to take commuter rail from BWI. (A free shuttle connects the airport with the BWI rail terminal, a 10–15min ride.) The southbound Penn Line of the MARC transit system (every 20–60min, Mon–Fri 4.45am–9.25pm; one-way $6) takes 45 minutes to reach DC's Union Station. Amtrak trains (half-hourly 6.20am–midnight; one-way $13) make the trip in thirty minutes with regular service and a mere twenty with Acela Express ($36).

By train and bus

Union Station, 50 Massachusetts Ave NE, three blocks north of the Capitol, sees **rail arrivals** from all over the country. Trains are operated either by Amtrak (ⓣ 1-800/872-7245, ⓦ www.amtrak.com) or the Maryland Rail Commuter Service (MARC; ⓣ 1-800/325-7245, ⓦ www.mtamaryland.com), which connects DC to Baltimore, BWI Airport, and suburban Maryland. Union Station has a Metro station, a taxi rank, and car rental desks.

Greyhound (ⓣ1-800/229-9424 or ⓣ 202/289-5154, ⓦ www.greyhound.com) and Peter Pan (ⓣ1-800/343-9999, ⓦ www.peterpanbus.com) **buses** stop at the terminal at 1005 1st St NE at L Street, in a fairly unsavory part of town, five long blocks north of Union Station. Take a cab at least as far as Union Station Metro (around $6), or head a block north to the new Metro station at New York Avenue, with an entrance at M Street.

By car

The Capital Beltway encircles the city at a ten-mile radius from the center. It's made up of two separate highways: I-495 on the

western half and I-95/I-495 in the east. Approaching the city from the northeast, you need I-95, before turning west on Route 50; that will take you to New York Avenue. From Baltimore there's the direct Baltimore–Washington Parkway, which also joins Route 50. From the south, take I-95 to I-395, which deposits you south of the mall near the waterfront. From the northwest, come in on I-270 until you hit the Beltway, then follow I-495 (east) for Connecticut Avenue south. From the west (Virginia) use I-66, which runs to Constitution Avenue.

City transportation

City transportation in Washington DC is typically excellent: most places downtown are within walking distance of each other, while a good public transit system connects downtown to outlying sights and neighborhoods. The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA; Ⓜ www.wmata.com) operates a subway system (Metrorail) and a bus network (Metrobus); other options include using taxis or even renting a bike.

The Metro

Washington's Metrorail, or simply "**the Metro**," is quick, cheap, and easy to use (a map of the system appears on the front cover flap of this guide). It runs on five lines that cover most of the downtown areas and suburbs, with the notable exception of Georgetown. Each line is color-coded and studded with various interchange stations. Stations are identified on the surface by name and the letter "M" on top of a brown pylon. Keep in mind that while the system itself may be substantially safe, a few stations are in fearsome neighborhoods, away from the tourist zones.

Operating hours are Monday through Thursday 5.30am to midnight, Friday 5.30am to 3am, Saturday 7am to 3am, and Sunday 7am to midnight. Trains run every five to seven minutes on most lines during rush hours, and every ten to twelve minutes at other times. Pick up a copy of the useful Metro guide (free, available in most stations, or see Ⓜ www.wmata.com/metrorail/systemmap.cfm).

Each passenger needs a **farecard**, which must be bought from a machine before you pass through the turnstiles. Fares are based on when and how far you travel, though are usually just $1.20 (one-way, peak or off-peak) if you're traveling around downtown, the Mall, and the Capitol. One-way fares range from $1.20 (base rate) to $3.60; the higher, peak-rate fares are charged Mon–Fri 5.30–9.30am and 3–7pm, otherwise the top fare is $2.20. Children under five ride free, and seniors are admitted for half price.

Farecards work like debit cards – you "put in" an amount of money when you purchase the card, and then the fare is subtracted from your total after each ride. Feed the card through any turnstile marked with a green arrow and then retrieve it; when you do the same thing at the end of your journey, the machine prints out on the card how much fare remains. Passes are also available for one-day ($6) and one-week ($20–30) periods. All passes are available at Metro Center station, many area supermarkets, and online through the WMATA website.

Buses

DC's **buses** operate largely the same hours as the Metro. The base fare for most bus journeys is $1.20, payable to the driver, though surcharges and zone crossings can increase this and express routes will cost you $2.50. The same peak-hour rates apply as on the Metro; rail transfers cover 85¢ of your bus fare. Two good passes to consider

are the Daily Pass ($3), which covers all regular routes and reduces express trips by $1.20, and the Weekly Pass ($11), which has the same express-trip reduction and buys seven days' unlimited base-fare trips.

Taxis

Taxis are a useful adjunct to the public transit system, especially in outposts like Georgetown and Adams-Morgan, which aren't on the Metro. Unlike cabs in most American cities, taxis in DC charge fares on a concentric zone basis. Standard rates are posted in each cab; a ride at the **basic rate** within one zone costs $5.50. Most **crosstown fares** run from $5 to $17.20. During rush hours there's a $1 surcharge, and groups may be asked to pay up to $2 for each extra passenger (in addition to the first one).

You can either flag cabs down on the street or use the ranks at hotels and transport terminals. If you call a taxi in advance there's a $2 surcharge. See the Directory under "Taxis" for a list of the most reliable companies. For more information, call the DC Taxicab Commission at ⓣ202/645-6005.

Driving

It's not worth **driving** in the capital unless you really have to. Traffic jams can be nightmarish, the DC street layout is a grid overlaid with unnerving diagonal boulevards, and without a map it's easy to get lost.

Parking lots and garages charge from $5 per hour to $18 a day and hotels $15–30 per night. Looking for free on-street parking is not likely to pay for itself in terms of time and energy. Should your car get towed, call the DMV at ⓣ202/727-5000 and expect to pay $100 or more to get it back.

Bikes

True **bicycling** fans will doubtless want to use their two-wheelers more for sport than transit while in the city, and these opportunities are detailed in chapters concerning bike-friendly locales such as Rock Creek Park, the C&O Canal, and along the Potomac. Given the traffic, few visitors will want to brave the DC streets on a bike simply to get around. Bike rental costs a $25–50 a day, or $100–120 a week (depending on the model and company). Bikes are permitted on Metrorail except on weekdays during rush hour and on some holidays.

Bike rental companies

Better Bikes ⓣ202/293-2080, ⓦwww.betterbikesinc.com. 24-hour service that will deliver anywhere in DC and has information on bike trails.

Big Wheel Bikes 1034 33rd St NW, Georgetown ⓣ202/337-0254; 2 Prince St, Old Town Alexandria, VA ⓣ703/739-2300; 3119 Lee Hwy, Arlington, VA ⓣ703/522-1110, ⓦwww.bigwheelbikes.com. The Georgetown location is convenient to the C&O Canal and Capital Crescent trails, while the Alexandria location is near the Mount Vernon Trail.

Blazing Saddles 445 11th St NW, Old Down town ⓣ202/544-0055. Closed Nov–March.

Information and maps

At airports, Union Station, and most hotels, the most useful item to pick up is the free *Washington DC Visitors Guide*, with listings, reviews, and contact numbers. Once in the city, your first stop should be at the **DC Visitor Information Center** (see p.190).

In your travels, you'll likely come across National Park Service rangers – in kiosks on the Mall and at the major memorials – who can field general queries.

One of the most conveniently located ranger sites is the Ellipse Visitor Pavilion (daily 8am–3pm), in front of the White House. National Park Service Headquarters runs an information office (Mon–Fri 9am–5pm, ⓣ202/208-4747) inside the Department of the Interior, 1849 C St NW, that has information about the city's monuments and memorials.

As far as local **newspapers and magazines** go, look for the weekly *CityPaper* (available in stores, bars, and restaurants), which has listings of entertainment and cultural events; the free monthly *Where: Washington* magazine (from major hotels and terminals); the glossy *Washingtonian* magazine ($3.95 at newsstands and bookstores); and Friday's *Washington Post*.

Tourism offices

Alexandria in the Ramsay House, 221 King St, Alexandria, VA ⓣ703/838-4200 or 1-800/388-9119, ⓦwww.funside.com. Daily 9am–5pm.
Arlington 735 S 18th St, Arlington, VA ⓣ703/228-5720 or 1-800/677-6267, ⓦarlingtonvirginiausa.com. Daily 9am–5pm.
DC Visitor Information Center in the Ronald Reagan Building, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave NW ⓣ1-866/DC-IS-FUN, ⓦwww.dcvisit.com. Mon–Fri 8am–5.30pm, Sat & Sun 9am–4pm.
Georgetown 3242 M St NW ⓣ202/303-1600, ⓦwww.georgetowndc.com. Wed–Fri 9am–4.30pm, Sat & Sun 10am–4pm.
White House Visitor Center 1450 Pennsylvania Ave NW ⓣ202/208-1631, ⓦwww.nps.gov/whho/WHVC. Daily 7.30am–4pm.

Maps

The maps in this guide (and on the cover flaps) should suffice for getting around the city and immediate region, but for a more detailed street plan, your best bet is the untearable, weatherproof *Rough Guide to Washington DC Map* ($8.95/Can$13.50/£4.99), which marks on its street plans all the key city sights as well as numerous listings in this guide.

City tours

There are any number of tour operators eager to show you DC's many sights, though with just a little preparation, it's easy to see most things on your own. Still, specialist tours can show you a side of Washington you may not otherwise see, highlighting historic buildings, cultural touchstones, and famous peoples' homes.

Bicycling

Bike the Sites Inc ⓣ202/842-BIKE, ⓦwww.bikethesites.com. Guided bike tours of the city's major sights ($40 and up, including bike and helmet), plus tours of Mount Vernon. Reservations required.

Buses and trolleys

Gold Line/Gray Line ⓣ1-800/862-1400 or 301/386-8300, ⓦwww.martzgroup.com/GoldLine. Tours in and around DC, including a two-day tour of downtown sights and Mount Vernon ($80), an evening tour ($56), and trips to Colonial Williamsburg and Monticello ($70 each).
Old Town Trolley Tours ⓣ202/832-9800, ⓦwww.historictours.com/washington. Motorized, board-at-will trolleys covering the main sights ($26 a day), as well as a "Monuments by Moonlight" tour covering the Mall's presidential and war memorials after dark ($28). Tickets available at trolley stops and downtown hotels.
Tourmobile ⓣ202/554-5100 or 888/868-7707, ⓦwww.tourmobile.com. Narrated, open-sided buses allowing unlimited stops at numerous locations (daily 9.30am–4.30pm), with tours of downtown and Arlington Cemetery ($20–30), Mount Vernon ($25), and the Mall by night ($20). Tickets available at the office on the Ellipse, kiosks on the Mall, and on the bus.

Cruises and river trips

Atlantic Kayak Tours ⓣ703/838-9072 or 1-800/297-0066, ⓦwww.atlantickayak.com. Kayak tours along the Potomac, including sunset tours exploring the monuments and bridges of Georgetown ($44–54). April–Oct.

Capitol River Cruises ⓣ1-800/405-5511 or 301/460-7447, ⓦwww.capitolrivercruises.com. Forty-five-minute sightseeing cruises leaving hourly throughout the day (April–Oct noon–9pm) from Georgetown's Washington Harbor, end of 31st St NW; $10 per person, reservations not necessary.

DC Ducks ⓣ202/966-3825, ⓦwww.historictours.com/washington. Converted amphibious carriers cruise the Mall and then splash into the Potomac (90min; $28). Hourly departures from Union Station (March–Oct daily 10am–4pm).

Specialist tours

Duke Ellington's Neighborhood ⓣ202/636-9203, ⓔcestours@aol.com. Four-hour bus tour of the historic U Street/Shaw neighborhood, boyhood home of the jazz legend ($20). Departures monthly May–Aug.

Goodwill Embassy Tour ⓣ202/636-4225, ⓦwww.dcgoodwill.org. The second Saturday in May, some of DC's finest embassy buildings throw open their doors (pre-booked $30; $35 on the day). Reserve well in advance.

Kalorama House and Embassy Tour ⓣ202/387-4062, ext.18. Various ambassadors' residences and private homes open to the public for five hours (often noon-5pm) one day every September; reserve in advance for $18, or pay $20 day of tour.

SpyDrive ⓣ866/SPY-TREK, ⓦwww.spydrive.com. Two-hour tours ($55–60) of spook sites in the "spy capital of the world," led by retired FBI, CIA, and KGB officers.

Walking tours

Anthony S. Pitch ⓣ301/294-9514, ⓦwww.dcsightseeing.com. Historical walking tours of Lafayette Square, Georgetown, and Lincoln assassination-related sites, led by the amiable Mr Pitch on Sunday mornings at 11am May–Aug ($15).

Lantern Lights ⓣ703/548-0100. Old Town in Alexandria, VA, is the setting for this "Ghost and Graveyard Tour," led by guides in costume. Tours ($6; April–Sept Wed, Thurs, & Sun 7.30pm; Fri & Sat 7.30pm & 9pm) depart from the Ramsay House Visitors Center at 221 King St.

Old Town Walking Tour ⓣ703/838-4200. Tour focusing on the history and architecture of Alexandria's historic district ($10; daily Mon–Sat 10.30am, Sun 2.30pm), departing from the Ramsay House Visitors Center at 221 King St.

Tour DC ⓣ301/588-8999, ⓦwww.tourdc.com. Walking tours covering various aspects of life among the elite, including important women at Tudor Place, the haunts of the Kennedys, World War II subterfuge on Embassy Row, and Georgetown history and cemetery tours. Saturday tours $15–17 per person; reserve in advance.

Washington Walks ⓣ202/484-1565, ⓦwww.washingtonwalks.com. Two-hour walks through downtown DC, with colorful themes such as "Washington Sleeps Here," "Best Addresses," "Most Haunted Houses," and so on (all tours $10 for adults, $5 kids).

Phones, mail, and email

Washington DC is served by the 202 **area code**; you do not need to dial the area code when calling within the District. Calls within the greater DC metropolitan area are counted as local even if they require a different code (703 for northern Virginia, or 301 for parts of Maryland, for example).

To **call internationally**: dial 011 + country code + number, minus the initial 0. Country codes are as follows: Australia (61), Canada (1), Ireland (353), New Zealand (64), and the UK and Northern Ireland (44).

As for **mail,** international mail between the US and Europe generally takes about a week. Airmail letters weighing up to an ounce cost 80¢; postcards and aerogrammes 70¢.

Email addicts will realize shortly after arrival that the city lacks any real cybercafé culture. Options include Kinko's/FedEx branches or one of the handful of other spots offering Internet service – see "Directory," p.193.

Festivals and holidays

Washington has a huge variety of annual festivals and events, many of them national in scope: America's Christmas Tree is lit each December on the Ellipse, and the grandest Fourth of July Parade in the country takes place along the Mall.

George Washington's Birthday

February 22 ⓣ**703/838-9350.** Spectacular parade as well as other events in Old Town Alexandria, VA. Also, events, concerts and wreath-laying at Mount Vernon (ⓣ703/780-2000).

St Patrick's Day

March 17. St Patrick's Day sees a big parade down Constitution Avenue NW on the Sunday before the 17th (call ⓣ202/637-2474 for grandstand seats) and another through Old Town Alexandria on the first Saturday of the month (ⓣ703/237-2199).

Cherry Blossom Festival

Late March/early April ⓦ**www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org.** The famous trees around the Tidal Basin (see p.52), which bloom each spring, are celebrated by a massive parade down Constitution Avenue NW, the crowning of a festival queen, free concerts, lantern-lighting, dances, and races. (Parade ticket information ⓣ202/728-1137; other events ⓣ202/547-1500.)

Easter

Early April. On Easter Sunday, a sunrise service is held at Arlington National Cemetery (ⓣ703/695-3250 or 202/685-2851), while on Easter Monday the White House hosts its Easter Egg Roll, with entertainment and egg rolling on the South Lawn. Call well in advance (ⓣ202/456-2200, ⓦwww.whitehouse.gov).

Smithsonian Festival of American Folklife

Late June to early July ⓣ**202/357-2700.** One of the country's biggest festivals: American music, crafts, food, and folk heritage events on the Mall.

Independence Day

July 4 ⓣ**202/619-7222.** A host of events, including a reading of the Declaration of Independence at the National Archives, a parade along Constitution Avenue NW, free concerts at the Sylvan Theatre near the Washington Monument, a performance by the National Symphony Orchestra on the west steps of the Capitol, and finishing with a superb fireworks display.

Adams-Morgan Day

First Sun after Labor Day (early Sept) ⓣ**202/789-7000,** ⓦ**www.adamsmorganday.org.** One of the best of the neighborhood festivals, with live music, crafts, and cuisine along 18th Street NW – always packed and great fun.

Halloween

October 31. Unofficial block parties, costumed antics, and fright-nights in Georgetown, Dupont Circle, and other neighborhoods.

Christmas

Events throughout December. Separate early December ceremonies for the lighting of the Capitol and National (Ellipse) Christmas trees – the latter lit by the president (ⓣ202/619-7222). Services are held all month at Washington National Cathedral, with carols, pageants, choral performances, and bell-ringing. (ⓣ202/537-6200, ⓦwww.cathedral.org/cathedral). Rounding out the holiday, the White House hosts its candlelight tours, usually held December 26–28. (Call well in advance for reservations ⓣ202/456-2200 or 619-7222, ⓦwww.whitehouse.gov).

Directory

Addresses The US Capitol – which itself doesn't have an address – is the center of the District's street-numbering system, and the four quadrants of the city (NW, SW, SE, NE) relate to their position respective of the building. North and South Capitol Street divide the city by east and west, and the National Mall and East Capitol Street divide it by north and south.

Doctors and dentists For a doctor referral service call Washington Hospital Center ⓣ202/877-3627 or George Washington University Hospital ⓣ1-888/449-3627. Contact the DC Dental Society ⓣ202/547-7615 for dentist referral.

Electricity 110 volts AC. Plugs are standard two-pins – foreign visitors will need an adaptor and voltage converter for their own appliances.

Embassies and consulates Australia: 1601 Massachusetts Ave NW ⓣ202/797-3000, ⓦwww.austemb.org; Canada: 501 Pennsylvania Ave NW ⓣ202/682-1740, ⓦwww.canadianembassy.org; Ireland: 2234 Massachusetts Ave NW ⓣ202/462-3939, ⓦwww.irelandemb.org; New Zealand: 37 Observatory Circle NW ⓣ202/328-4800, ⓦwww.nzembassy.com; United Kingdom: 3100 Massachusetts Ave NW ⓣ202/588-6500, ⓦwww.britainusa.com.

Emergencies ⓣ911.

Hospital George Washington University Hospital, 901 23rd St NW (ⓣ202/715-4000, general patient information), has a 24hr emergency department (ⓣ202/715-4911).

Internet access Available at *Cyberlaptops.com*, 1636 R St NW, Dupont Circle ⓣ202/462-7195, ⓦwww.cyberlaptops.com; *Cyberstop Café*, 1513 17th St NW, Dupont Circle (closes midnight) ⓣ202/234-2470, ⓦwww.cyberstopcafe.com; FedEx Kinko's, 325 7th St, Old Downtown (24hr) ⓣ202/544-4796, ⓦwww.kinkos.com; 715 D St SE, Capitol Hill (24hr) ⓣ202/547-0421; 1612 K St NW, New Downtown ⓣ202/466-3777; 3329 M St NW, Georgetown ⓣ202/965-1415; and The Newsroom, 1803 Connecticut Ave NW, Dupont Circle ⓣ202/332-1489.

Pharmacies 24hr CVS stores at 1199 Vermont Ave NW, New Downtown ⓣ202/737-3962; 7 Dupont Circle ⓣ202/833-5704; and 4555 Wisconsin Ave, Upper Northwest ⓣ202/537-1459.

Police In an emergency call ⓣ911. For non-emergency help, information, and the location of police stations call ⓣ202/727-1010. The Metro Transit Police can be contacted at ⓣ202/962-2121.

Post offices and mail services DC's main downtown post office is across from Union Station at 2 Massachusetts Ave NE, 20002 (Mon–Fri 7am–midnight, Sat & Sun 7am–8pm; ⓣ202/523-2368). There are also convenient branches at 1800 M St NW, New Downtown, 20036 (Mon–Fri 9am–5pm; ⓣ202/523-2506), and 1200 Pennsylvania Ave NW, 20004 (Mon–Fri 7.30am–5.30pm, Sat 8am–12.30pm; ⓣ202/842-1444).

Tax DC sales tax is 5.75 percent; restaurant tax, 10 percent; hotel tax, 14.5 percent.

Taxis Capitol Cab ⓣ202/546-2400, Diamond Cab ⓣ202/387-6200, Yellow Cab ⓣ202/544-1212. Information at ⓦdctaxi.dc.gov.

Time Washington DC is on Eastern Standard Time, five hours behind Greenwich Mean Time. Daylight saving time, when clocks are turned forward an hour, operates between April and October.

Travelers aid society Useful help, emergency, and information desks run by a voluntary, nonprofit agency (ⓦwww.travelersaid.org). Main office is at Union Station (Mon–Sat 9.30am–5.30pm, Sun 12.30–5.30pm; ⓣ202/371-1937); other offices at National Airport (Mon–Fri 9am–9pm, Sat & Sun 9am–6pm; ⓣ703/417-3972) and Dulles Airport (Mon–Fri 8am–9pm, Sat & Sun 8am–7pm; ⓣ703/572-8296).

small print & Index

A Rough Guide to Rough Guides

Washington DC DIRECTIONS is published by Rough Guides. The first *Rough Guide to Greece*, published in 1982, was a student scheme that became a publishing phenomenon. The immediate success of the book – with numerous reprints and a Thomas Cook Prize short-listing – spawned a series that rapidly covered dozens of destinations. Rough Guides had a ready market among low-budget backpackers, but soon also acquired a much broader and older readership that relished Rough Guides' wit and inquisitiveness as much as their enthusiastic, critical approach. Everyone wants value for money, but not at any price. Rough Guides soon began supplementing the "rougher" information about hostels and low-budget listings with the kind of detail on restaurants and quality hotels that independent-minded visitors on any budget might expect, whether on business in New York or trekking in Thailand. These days the guides offer recommendations from shoestring to luxury and cover a large number of destinations around the globe, including almost every country in the Americas and Europe, more than half of Africa and most of Asia and Australasia. Rough Guides now publish:

- Travel guides to more than 200 worldwide destinations
- Dictionary phrasebooks to 22 major languages
- Maps printed on rip-proof and waterproof Polyart™ paper
- Music guides running the gamut from Opera to Elvis
- Reference books on topics as diverse as the Weather and Shakespeare
- World Music CDs in association with World Music Network

Visit www.roughguides.com to see our latest publications.

Publishing information

This 1st edition published April 2005 by **Rough Guides Ltd**, 80 Strand, London WC2R 0RL. 345 Hudson St, 4th Floor, New York, NY 10014, USA.

Distributed by the Penguin Group
Penguin Books Ltd, 80 Strand, London WC2R 0RL
Penguin Group (USA), 375 Hudson Street, NY 10014, USA
Penguin Group (Australia), 250 Camberwell Road, Camberwell, Victoria 3124, Australia
Penguin Group (Canada), 10 Alcorn Avenue, Toronto, ON M4V 1E4, Canada
Penguin Group (New Zealand), Cnr Rosedale and Airborne Roads, Albany, Auckland, New Zealand
Typeset in Bembo and Helvetica to an original design by Henry Iles.
Printed and bound in Italy by Graphicom

© Jules Brown and JD Dickey April 2005

No part of this book may be reproduced in any form without permission from the publisher except for the quotation of brief passages in reviews.

208pp includes index

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

ISBN 1-84353-394-4

The publishers and authors have done their best to ensure the accuracy and currency of all the information in **Washington DC DIRECTIONS**, however, they can accept no responsibility for any loss, injury, or inconvenience sustained by any traveller as a result of information or advice contained in the guide.

1 3 5 7 9 8 6 4 2

Help us update

We've gone to a lot of effort to ensure that the first edition of **Washington DC DIRECTIONS** is accurate and up-to-date. However, things change – places get "discovered," opening hours are notoriously fickle, restaurants and rooms raise prices or lower standards. If you feel we've got it wrong or left something out, we'd like to know, and if you can remember the address, the price, the phone number, so much the better.

We'll credit all contributions, and send a copy of the next edition (or any other DIRECTIONS guide or Rough Guide if you prefer) for the best letters.

Everyone who writes to us and isn't already a subscriber will receive a copy of our full-color thrice-yearly newsletter. Please mark letters: "**Washington DC DIRECTIONS Update**" and send to: Rough Guides, 80 Strand, London WC2R 0RL, or Rough Guides, 4th Floor, 345 Hudson St, New York, NY 10014. Or send an email to **mail@roughguides.com**

Have your questions answered and tell others about your trip at **www.roughguides.atinfopop.com**

Rough Guide credits

Text editors: Jeff Cranmer, Hunter Slaton
Layout: Dan May
Photography: Angus Oborn
Cartography: Jai Prakash Mishra, Miles Irving
Picture editor: Jj Luck, Harriet Mills

Proofreader: Margaret Doyle
Production: Julia Bovis
Design: Henry Iles
Cover design: Chloë Roberts

The authors

JD Dickey has contributed to eight different Rough Guides, including Washington DC, Los Angeles, Seattle, the Pacific Northwest, and California. He makes his home on the West Coast, but enjoys traveling with much vigor and gusto, and is a rabid consumer of news, culture, history, and folly.

Jules Brown has written and researched Rough Guides to Sicily, Barcelona, England's Lake District, and numerous other titles.

Acknowledgments

JD would foremost like to thank his editor Jeff Cranmer, who contributed much skill, energy, and panache to this book, and Andrew Rosenberg, who oversaw the Washington DC project with steely eyes and a velvet touch. Thanks also are due to JD's wife and family, his travel contacts and coordinators in Washington, Jj Luck and Harriet Mills for photo research, Dan May for typesetting, Margaret Doyle for proofreading, all the cartographers in London and Delhi who contributed to making the maps, and Hunter Slaton for first rolling the mighty Neoclassical stones of this volume.

Photo credits

All images © Rough Guides except the following:

p.1 Bird perched on sign © James Leynse/Corbis
p.2 Supreme Court © Dennis Degan/Corbis
p.5 Cherry blossoms near Jefferson Memorial © Marc Nomura/Reuters/Corbis
p.5 National Museum of the American Indian © Molly Riley/Reuters/Corbis
p.6 Francis Scott Key Memorial Bridge © Joel W. Rogers/Corbis
p.7 View down the Mall © Charles O'Rear/Corbis
p.7 Dupont Circle © Dcstockphoto.com/Alamy
p.7 Capitol Building rotunda © Royalty-free/Corbis
p.8 Row Houses in Georgetown © Bruce Burkhardt/Corbis
p.8 Adams-Morgan © Kelly-Mooney Photography/Corbis
p.16 Rock Creek Park © Richard T. Nowitz/Corbis
p.32 Celebration of George Washington's Birthday © Richard T. Nowitz/Corbis
p.33 Smithsonian Folklife Festival © Richard T. Nowitz/Corbis
p.33 Easter egg race on the White House Lawn © Bettmann/Corbis
p.42 Clyde's © Ron Blunt Photography
p.45 Jogger with cherry blossoms © David Brooks/Corbis
p.45 Buffalo Sabres in game against Washington Capitals © Wally McNamee/Corbis
p.48 East garden of the White House © Jason Reed/Reuters/Corbis
p.71 National Statuary Hall © Michael Freeman/Corbis
p.98 Kinkead's © C.W. Kelly III of Kinkead's
p.104 Close-up of the United States Constitution © Joe Sohm/Alamy
p.126 Kramerbook's Afterwords Bookstore © James Leynse/Corbis
p.144 Peirce Mill, Rock Creek Park © Giles Stokoe/Dorling Kindersley
p.165 Old Town Alexandria © Walter Bibikow/Alamy

Index

Maps are marked in **color**

18th Street NW 130

a

accommodation 175
accommodation 178
Adams-Morgan 8, 130
Adams-Morgan and Shaw 132
African-American Civil War Memorial and Museum 131
African-American DC 24
African Art Museum 25, 65
airports 187
Air and Space Museum 11, 63
Alexandria Archeology Museum 169
Alexandria waterfront 168
Alexandria, Old Town 8, 165
Alexandria, Old Town 166
American Art Museum 93, 109
American History Museum 13, 58
American Indian Museum 5, 62
Anacostia Museum 25, 85
Anderson House 123
Aquarium, National 102
Arboretum, National 17, 135
Archives, National 41, 103
Arlington 8, 158
Arlington 159
Arlington House 8, 160, 161
Arlington National Cemetery 15, 158
arrival 187
Asian Art Museum 20, 66
Athenaeum, the 168

b

bars (by area)
- Adams-Morgan, Shaw and Outer Northeast 137
- Alexandria 173
- Arlington 163
- Capitol Hill 78
- Georgetown 156
- New Downtown and Dupont Circle 128
- Old Downtown 114
- Upper Northwest 147
- White House and Foggy Bottom 99

bars
- Aroma 147
- Big Hunt, the 128
- Brickskeller, the 26, 128
- Bullfeathers 78
- Capitol City Brewing Company 27, 78
- Capitol Lounge 78
- Chief Ike's Mambo Room 137
- Clarendon Grill 163
- Columbia Station 138
- D.A.'s RFD Washington 114
- Dr. Dremo's Taphouse 163
- ESPN Zone 114
- Founders Restaurant and Brewing 173
- Fox and Hounds 128
- Froggy Bottom Pub 99
- Garrett's 156
- Habana Village 35, 138
- Hawk 'n' Dove 27, 78
- Ireland's Four Courts 163
- Ireland's Four Provinces 147
- J. Paul's 27, 156
- John Harvard's 115
- Marshall's 99
- Mr. P's 128
- Mr. Smith's 157
- Murphy's Grand Irish Pub 27, 173
- Nanny O'Brien's 147
- Nathan's 157
- Omega 128
- Polly's 138
- Sequoia 157
- Shenandoah Brewing Co. 174
- Tombs, the 157
- Union Street Public House 174
- Zoo Bar – Oxford Tavern 147

Barns at Wolf Trap 47, 174
bed and breakfasts 177, 183
- Adams Inn 183
- Arlington Guesthouse 183
- Bull Moose B&B 183
- Dupont at the Circle 183
- Hereford House 183
- Kalorama Guest House 183
- Swann House 184
- William Lewis House 184
- Windsor Inn 184
- Woodley Park Guest House 184

Beltway 187
Bethune Council House 28, 120
bicycling 189, 190
bike rental 189
Bill of Rights 104
Bliss Collection 153
B'nai B'rith Klutznick National Jewish Museum 118
Botanic Garden 17, 72
Broadmoor 142
Building Museum 12, 106, 107
Bureau of Engraving and Printing 41, 81
buses 187, 188

c

C&O Canal 17, 44, 150
cafés (by area)
- Adams-Morgan, Shaw and Outer Northeast 136
- Alexandria 172
- Capitol Hill 77
- Georgetown 155
- New Downtown and Dupont Circle 126
- Old Downtown 113
- Upper Northwest 146
- White House and Foggy Bottom 97

cafés
- Alberto's Pizza 126
- Art Gallery Bar & Grille 97
- Ben's Chili Bowl 43, 136
- Booeymonger 155
- Bread and Chocolate 77
- Breadline 97
- Café des Artistes 98
- Café La Ruche 155
- Café Mozart 113
- Capitol Grounds 98
- Ching Ching Cha 155
- Dean & Deluca 155
- Diner, the 136
- Duplex Diner 136
- Ecco Café 172
- Firehook Bakery 42, 146
- Five Guys 172
- Furin's 155
- Hard Times Café 172
- House of Kabob 126
- Julia's Empanadas 126
- Krupin's 146
- La Piazza 172
- Loeb's Deli 126
- Market Lunch 77
- Murky Coffee 77
- Newsroom, the 126
- Pizza Mart 136
- Reeve's Restaurant and Bakery 113
- Teaism 126
- Vace 146

Capitol, US 7, 10, 68
Capitol Hill 7, 68
Capitol Hill 69
car travel 187, 189
Carlyle House 37, 166
Cathedral, National 30, 143
Cherry Blossom Festival 192
Chinatown 107
Christ Church 167
City Museum of Washington DC 13, 108, 109
Cleveland Park 142
clubs and live music (by area)
  Adams-Morgan, Shaw and Outer Northeast 138
  Alexandria 174
  Arlington 163
  Capitol Hill 78
  Georgetown 157
  New Downtown and Dupont Circle 129
  Old Downtown 115
  South of the Mall 86
clubs and live music
  9:30 Club 138
  Andalu 129
  Barns at Wolf Trap 47, 174
  Birchmere 174
  Black Cat 35, 129
  Blues Alley 35, 157
  Bohemian Caverns 25, 138
  Chaos 129
  Dream 115
  Edge and Wet, the 86
  Eighteenth Street Lounge 129
  Galaxy Hut 163
  HR-57 129
  IOTA Club and Café 35, 163
  Kelly's Irish Times 78
  Laporta's 174
  Madame's Organ 138
  Modern 157
  Nation 86
  Ragtime 163
  Remington's 78
  Saloun, the 157
  State Theatre 174
  Takoma Station Tavern 138
  Third Edition 157
  Tiffany Tavern 174
  Twins Jazz 138
  Velvet Lounge 138
  Whitlow's on Wilson 163
  Wolf Trap 47, 174
  Zanzibar on the Waterfront 86
  Zig's Bar and Grill 174
Columbia Road 130
communications 191
Connecticut Avenue NW 23, 117
Constitution Gardens 58
Constitution, the 104
consulates 193
Corcoran Gallery of Art 21, 93
cruises 169, 191
cycling 189, 190

d

Daughters of the American Revolution Museum 28, 95
day-trips 165
DC War Memorial 55
Decatur House 91
Declaration of Independence 104
dentists 193
Department of State 96
Department of the Interior Museum 95
doctors 193
Douglass, Frederick 24, 84
Dumbarton House 153, 154
Dumbarton Oaks 152
Dupont Circle 7, 121
Dupont Circle 118

e

Eastern Market 22, 75, 76
Ellipse, the 91
e-mail 191
embassies 193
Embassy Row 41, 122
emergencies 193
eternal flame (Arlington Cemetery) 8, 158

f

FDR Memorial 14, 54
Federal Bureau of Investigation 103, 104
Federal Triangle 7, 100
Federal Triangle 101
festivals 32, 192
Fish Wharf 23, 82
Foggy Bottom 91
Foggy Bottom 88
Folger Shakespeare Library 74
Ford's Theatre 36, 110
Frederick Douglass National Historic Site 24, 84
Freer Gallery of Art 20, 67

g

Gadsby's Museum Tavern 167
George Washington Masonic Memorial 169
Georgetown 8, 149
Georgetown 150
Georgetown University 149
Gospel Brunch 34, 98
Grant Memorial 14, 70, 71

h

Hay-Adams Hotel 38, 92, 180
Heurich House 122
Hillwood Museum and Gardens 145
Hirshhorn Museum 21, 64
holidays 32, 192
Holocaust Memorial Museum 12, 79
hospitals 193
hostels 184
  HI-Washington DC 184
  Washington International Student Center 184
  William Penn House 184
hotels (by area)
  Adams-Morgan 177
  Alexandria 179
  Capitol Hill 179
  Foggy Bottom 180
  Georgetown 180
  New Downtown and Dupont Circle 180
  Old Downtown 181
  Upper Northwest 182
  Waterfront 182
hotels 179
  Best Western Old Colony Inn 179
  Capitol Hill Regency 179
  Capitol Hill Suites 179
  Carlyle Suites 180
  Channel Inn 182
  Courtyard by Marriott 177
  Days Inn 182
  Four Seasons 180
  George 179
  Georgetown Inn 180
  Grand Hyatt 181
  Harrington 182
  Hay-Adams 38, 92, 180
  Helix 181
  Hilton Garden Inn 179
  Holiday Inn 179
  Holiday Inn Georgetown 180
  Hyatt Arlington 179
  Jefferson 181
  JW Marriott 182
  Latham 180
  Loew's L'Enfant Plaza 183
  Lombardy 180
  Mayflower 39, 117, 181
  Monaco 39, 108, 182
  Monticello 180
  Morrison House 179
  Morrison-Clark 182
  Normandy Inn 179
  Phoenix Park 179
  Rouge 39, 181
  St Regis 39, 181
  Shoreham 140, 182

State Plaza 180
Tabard Inn 181
Topaz 181
Wardman Park 140, 182
Washington 182
Washington Hilton 179
Watergate 37, 96, 180
Westin Embassy Row 181
Willard 38, 102, 182
Windsor Park 179
House of Representatives 71
Howard University 24, 133, 134

i

information 189
Interior Department Museum 95
International Spy Museum 13, 110
Internet access 193

j

Jefferson Memorial 5, 15, 53
Jewish Museum 118
Judiciary Square 105

k

Kalorama 124
Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens 46, 135, 136
Kennedy Center 96, 97
Kennedy gravesite 158
Kennedy-Warren Apartments 142
Korean War Veterans Memorial 56
Koshland Science Museum 106
Kreeger Museum 47, 153

l

Lafayette Square 17, 90, 91
Law Enforcement Officers Memorial 106
LeDroit Park 133
Lee-Fendall House 168
Library of Congress 40, 73
Lincoln Memorial 11, 56
live music see clubs
Lyceum, the 168

m

M Street 23, 149
mail 191, 193
maps 189
Maret School 142
Marina, Washington 82
Marine Corps Memorial 160
Market House 149
Mayflower Hotel 39, 117, 181
MCI Center 45, 108
medical care 193
memorials
African-American Civil War Memorial 131
Arlington National Cemetery 15, 158
DC War Memorial 55
FDR Memorial 14, 54
George Washington Masonic Memorial 169
Grant Memorial 14, 70, 71
Jefferson Memorial 5, 15, 53
Korean War Veterans Memorial 56
Law Enforcement Officers Memorial 106
Lincoln Memorial 11, 56
Marine Corps Memorial 160
Navy Memorial 105
Tomb of the Unknowns 159
Vietnam Veterans Memorial 11, 57
Vietnam Women's Memorial 29, 58
Washington Monument 7, 51
Women in Military Service Memorial 160, 162
World War II Memorial 15, 54
Metro transit system 188
Metropolitan AME Church 31, 119
Monaco Hotel 39, 108, 182
Mount Vernon 32, 169
Mount Vernon Trail 161
museums
African Art Museum 25, 65
African-American Civil War Museum 131
Air and Space Museum 11, 63
Alexandria Archeology Museum 169
American Art Museum 93, 109
American History Museum 13, 58
American Indian Museum 5, 62
Anacostia Museum 25, 85
Asian Art Museum 20, 66
B'nai B'rith Klutznick National Jewish Museum 118
Building Museum 12, 106, 107
City Museum of Washington DC 13, 108, 109
Corcoran Gallery of Art 21, 93
Daughters of the American Revolution Museum 28, 95
Department of the Interior Museum 95
Freer Gallery 20, 67
Hillwood Museum and Gardens 145
Hirshhorn Museum 21, 64
Holocaust Memorial Museum 12, 79
International Spy Museum 13, 110
Jewish Museum 118
Koshland Science Museum 106
Kreeger Museum 47, 153
National Gallery of Art 11, 60
National Geographic Explorers Hall 117
Natural History Museum 59
Navy Museum 13, 83
Phillips Collection 21, 123
Portrait Gallery, National 109
Postal Museum 76
Renwick Gallery 20, 93
Sackler Gallery 20, 66
Textile Museum 21, 125
Women in the Arts Museum 29, 111

n

National Air and Space Museum 11, 63
National Aquarium 102
National Arboretum, 17, 135
National Archives 41, 103
National Building Museum 12, 106, 107
National Cathedral 30, 143
National Gallery of Art 11, 60
National Mall 7, 16, 45, 51
National Mall 52
National Museum of African Art 25, 65
National Museum of American History 13, 58
National Museum of Natural History 59
National Museum of Women in the Arts 29, 111
National Museum of the American Indian 5, 62
National Zoo 142
Natural History Museum 59
Naval Heritage Center 105
Navy Memorial 105
Navy Museum 13, 83
Navy Yard 83
Netherlands Carillon 161
New Downtown 116
New Downtown 118
New York Avenue Presbyterian Church 112

o

Octagon, the 95
Old Downtown 100
Old Downtown and Federal Triangle 101
Old Executive Office Building 37, 92
Old Patent Office Building 109
Old Post Office 103
Old Senate Chamber 70
Old Stone House 149
Old Supreme Court Chamber 70
Old Town Alexandria 8, 165
Old Town Alexandria 166
Old Town Alexandria waterfront 168
outdoor activities 44

p

Peacock Room 67
Peirce Mill 144, 145
Pennsylvania Avenue NW 100
Pennsylvania Avenue SE 75
Pension Building 12, 107
Pentagon, the 161
performing arts *see* theaters
Petersen House 111, 112
pharmacies 193
Phillips Collection 21, 123
phones 191
police 193
Pope-Leighey House 171
Portrait Gallery 109
post offices 193
Postal Museum 76

r

Ramsay House 165
Renwick Gallery 20, 93
restaurants (by area)
  Adams-Morgan, Shaw and Outer Northeast 137
  Alexandria 173
  Arlington 162
  Capitol Hill 77
  Georgetown 155
  New Downtown and Dupont Circle 128
  Old Downtown 113
  South of the Mall 86
  Upper Northwest 146
  White House and Foggy Bottom 98
restaurants
  Amma Vegetarian Kitchen 155
  Andale 113
  Annie's Paramount Steakhouse 127
  Aquarelle 98
  Ardeo 146
  Au Pied de Cochon 155
  Bangkok Bistro 156
  Bistro Francais 156
  Blue Point Grill 173
  Bukom Café 137
  Cactus Cantina 147
  Café Berlin 77
  Café Dalat 162
  Café Promenade 19, 127
  Cajun Bangkok 173
  Cashion's Eat Place 137
  Citronelle 19, 156
  Clyde's 42, 156
  Coppi's Pizza 137
  Custis and Brown 86
  Dish 98
  Fasika's 137
  Fish Market 173
  Florida Avenue Grill 137
  Galileo 127
  H20 86
  Harry's 113
  Hunan Chinatown 113
  Il Radicchio 162
  Jaleo 113
  Johnny's Half Shell 127, 128
  Kinkead's 98
  Las Placitas 77
  Las Tapas 173
  Lebanese Taverna 147
  Martin's Tavern 156
  Melrose 98
  Meze 137
  Mixtec 137
  Monocle, the 19, 77
  Morton's of Chicago 162
  Mr. Henry's 78
  Nam Viet 147
  Nectar 99
  New Heights 147
  Nora's 127
  Old Ebbitt Grill 19, 113
  Old Glory 156
  Palm, the 18, 127
  Perry's 137
  Phillips 86
  Primi Piatti 99
  Queen Bee 43, 163
  Red Ginger 156
  Red Hot & Blue 163
  Red Sage 114
  Saigonnais 137
  Sala Thai 147
  Sky Terrace 114
  South Austin Grill 173
  Southside 815 173
  Spices 147
  Sushi Taro 128
  Ten Penh 114
  Tony Cheng's 114
  Tosca 114
  Two Quail 78
  U-topia 137
  Vidalia 128
  Vietnam Georgetown 156
  Yanyu 147
  Zed's 156
RFK Stadium 86
Rock Creek Park 16, 45, 144, 145
Roosevelt Island 45, 161
Roosevelt Memorial 14, 54
Rosedale 142

s

Sackler Gallery 20, 66
St John's Church 31, 92
St Matthew's Cathedral 31, 116
Senate 71
Sewall-Belmont House 29, 74
Shaw 131
Shaw 132
shops (by area)
  Adams-Morgan, Shaw and Outer Northeast 136
  Alexandria 172
  Arlington 162
  Capitol Hill 76
  Georgetown 154
  New Downtown and Dupont Circle 125
  Old Downtown 113
  Upper Northwest 146
  White House and Foggy Bottom 97
shops
  American in Paris 172
  Appalachian Spring 154
  Art and Soul 76
  Artcraft Collection 172
  Arts Afire 172
  Backstage 77
  Bryn Mawr Lantern Bookshop 154
  Card & Comic Collectorama 172
  Commander Salamander 154
  Crystal City Shops 162
  Daisy 136
  DC CD 136
  Dream Dresser 154
  Eastern Market 22, 75, 76
  Everett Hall 125
  Fashion Centre at Pentagon City 162
  Fusebox 125
  go mama go! 23, 125
  Hecht's 113
  Idle Time Books 136
  Imagine Artwear 172
  Indian Craft Shop 97
  InfoShop 97
  Kathleen Ewing Gallery 125
  Kramerbooks 125
  Old Post Office Pavilion 113
  Old Print Gallery 154

Olsson's Books and Records 113
Political Americana 77
Politics & Prose 146
Proper Topper 126
Pulp 126
Smash! 154
Torpedo Factory Arts Center 169
Travel Books and Language Center 146
Wake Up Little Suzie 146
Shoreham Hotel 140, 182
Shrine of the Immaculate Conception 31, 134, 135
Smithsonian Castle 66
Society of the Cincinnati 123
South Lawn, White House 90
South of the Mall 79
South of the Mall 80
Statuary Hall, National 70
State Department 96
State Plaza Hotel 180
subways 188
Sulgrave Club 121
Supreme Court 2, 41, 72

t

Takoma Park 47, 134
taxes 193
taxis 189, 193
Textile Museum 21, 125
theaters (by area)
Adams-Morgan, Shaw and Outer Northeast 138
Arlington 163
New Downtown and Dupont Circle 129
Old Downtown 115
South of the Mall 86
Upper Northwest 148
White House and Foggy Bottom 99
theaters
American Film Institute 99
Arena Stage 86
Arlington Cinema 'n Drafthouse 163
Avalon Theatre 148
Carter Barron Amphitheatre 148
Dance Place, the 138
DAR Constitution Hall 99
DC Arts Center 139
Ford's Theatre 36, 110
Gunston Arts Center 164
Improv 129
Lincoln Theatre 139
Lisner Auditorium 99
National Symphony Orchestra 99
National Theatre 115
Rosslyn Spectrum 164
Shakespeare Theatre 115
Signature Theatre 164
Source Theatre 129
Studio Theatre 129
Summer Opera Theater Company 139
Uptown Theater 142, 148
Visions Cinema Bistro Lounge 139
Warner Theatre 115
Woolly Mammoth Theatre 115
Thomas Law House 83
Tidal Basin 52
Tomb of the Unknowns 159
Torpedo Factory Arts Center 169
tourism offices 190
tours 190
train travel 187
Treasury Building 93
Tregaron 142
Tudor Place 152

u

U Street 131
Union Station 76, 77, 187
Upper Northwest 140
Upper Northwest 141

v

Vietnam Veterans Memorial 11, 57
Vietnam Women's Memorial 29, 58
visitor centers 190

w

Walsh-McLean House 123
Wardman Park Hotel 140, 182
Washington Club 121
Washington Marina 82
Washington Masonic Memorial 169
Washington Monument 7, 51
Washington National Cathedral 30, 143
Washington Post 120
Washington, George 32, 169, 192
waterfront, the 82
Watergate Complex 37, 96
Watergate Hotel 37, 96, 180
weather 4
Wheat Row 83
White House 10, 87
White House and Foggy Bottom 87
White House and Foggy Bottom 88
Willard 38, 102, 182
Wisconsin Avenue 23, 152
Wolf Trap 47, 174
Women in Military Service Memorial 160, 162
Women in the Arts Museum 29, 111
Woodlawn Plantation 171
Woodley Mansion 142
Woodley Park 140
Woodrow Wilson House 124
World War II Memorial 15, 54

z

Zoo, National 142

Visit us online

roughguides.com

Information on over 25,000 destinations around the world

travel

community

- **Read** Rough Guides' trusted travel info
- **Share** journals, photos and travel advice with other readers
- Get exclusive Rough Guide **discounts** and travel **deals**
- Earn membership points every time you contribute to the Rough Guide **community** and get **free** books, flights and trips
- Browse thousands of CD reviews and artists in our **music** area

ROUGH GUIDES TRAVEL...

UK & Ireland
Britain
Devon & Cornwall
Dublin
Edinburgh
England
Ireland
Lake District
London
London DIRECTIONS
London Mini Guide
Scotland
Scottish Highlands & Islands
Wales

Europe
Algarve
Amsterdam
Amsterdam DIRECTIONS
Andalucía
Athens DIRECTIONS
Austria
Baltic States
Barcelona
Belgium & Luxembourg
Berlin
Brittany & Normandy
Bruges & Ghent
Brussels
Budapest
Bulgaria
Copenhagen
Corfu
Corsica
Costa Brava
Crete
Croatia
Cyprus
Czech & Slovak Republics
Dodecanese & East Aegean
Dordogne & The Lot
Europe
Florence
France
Germany
Greece
Greek Islands
Hungary
Ibiza & Formentera
Iceland
Ionian Islands
Italy
Languedoc & Roussillon
Lisbon
Lisbon DIRECTIONS
The Loire
Madeira
Madrid
Mallorca
Malta & Gozo
Menorca
Moscow
Netherlands
Norway
Paris
Paris DIRECTIONS
Paris Mini Guide
Poland
Portugal
Prague
Provence & the Côte d'Azur
Pyrenees
Romania
Rome
Sardinia
Scandinavia
Sicily
Slovenia
Spain
St Petersburg
Sweden
Switzerland
Tenerife & La Gomera
Tenerife DIRECTIONS
Turkey
Tuscany & Umbria
Venice & The Veneto
Venice DIRECTIONS
Vienna

Asia
Bali & Lombok
Bangkok
Beijing
Cambodia
China
Goa
Hong Kong & Macau
India
Indonesia
Japan
Laos
Malaysia, Singapore & Brunei
Nepal
Philippines
Singapore
South India
Southeast Asia
Sri Lanka
Thailand
Thailand's Beaches & Islands
Tokyo
Vietnam

Australasia
Australia
Melbourne
New Zealand
Sydney

North America
Alaska
Big Island of Hawaii
Boston
California
Canada
Chicago
Florida
Grand Canyon
Hawaii
Honolulu
Las Vegas
Los Angeles
Maui
Miami & the Florida Keys
Montréal
New England
New Orleans
New York City
New York City DIRECTIONS
New York City Mini Guide
Pacific Northwest
Rocky Mountains
San Francisco
San Francisco DIRECTIONS
Seattle
Southwest USA
Toronto
USA
Vancouver
Washington DC
Yosemite

Caribbean & Latin America
Antigua & Barbuda
Antigua DIRECTIONS
Argentina
Bahamas
Barbados
Barbados DIRECTIONS
Belize
Bolivia
Brazil
Caribbean
Central America
Chile
Costa Rica
Cuba
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
Guatemala
Jamaica
Maya World
Mexico
Peru
St Lucia
South America
Trinidad & Tobago

Rough Guides are available from good bookstores worldwide. New titles are published every month. Check www.roughguides.com for the latest news.

...MUSIC & REFERENCE

Africa & Middle East
Cape Town
Egypt
The Gambia
Jordan
Kenya
Marrakesh DIRECTIONS
Morocco
South Africa, Lesotho & Swaziland
Syria
Tanzania
Tunisia
West Africa
Zanzibar
Zimbabwe

Travel Theme guides
First-Time Around the World
First-Time Asia
First-Time Europe
First-Time Latin America
Skiing & Snowboarding in North America
Travel Online
Travel Health
Walks in London & SE England
Women Travel

Restaurant guides
French Hotels & Restaurants
London
New York
San Francisco

Maps
Algarve
Amsterdam
Andalucia & Costa del Sol
Argentina
Athens
Australia
Baja California
Barcelona
Berlin
Boston
Brittany
Brussels
Chicago
Crete
Croatia
Cuba
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Dominican Republic
Dubai & UAE
Dublin
Egypt
Florence & Siena
Frankfurt
Greece
Guatemala & Belize
Iceland
Ireland
Kenya
Lisbon
London
Los Angeles
Madrid
Mexico
Miami & Key West
Morocco
New York City
New Zealand
Northern Spain
Paris
Peru
Portugal
Prague
Rome
San Francisco
Sicily
South Africa
South India
Sri Lanka
Tenerife
Thailand
Toronto
Trinidad & Tobago
Tuscany
Venice
Washington DC
Yucatán Peninsula

Dictionary Phrasebooks
Czech
Dutch
Egyptian Arabic
European Languages (Czech, French, German, Greek, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish)
French
German
Greek
Hindi & Urdu
Hungarian
Indonesian
Italian
Japanese
Mandarin Chinese
Mexican Spanish
Polish
Portuguese
Russian
Spanish
Swahili
Thai
Turkish
Vietnamese

Music Guides
The Beatles
Bob Dylan
Cult Pop
Classical Music
Country Music
Elvis
Hip Hop
House
Irish Music
Jazz
Music USA
Opera
Reggae
Rock
Techno
World Music (2 vols)

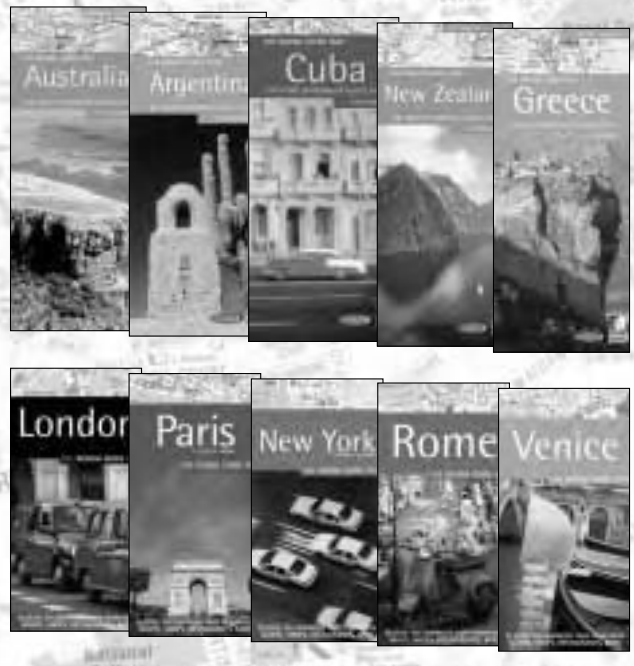
History Guides
China
Egypt
England
France
India
Islam
Italy
Spain
USA

Reference Guides
Books for Teenagers
Children's Books, 0–5
Children's Books, 5–11
Cult Fiction
Cult Football
Cult Movies
Cult TV
Ethical Shopping
Formula 1
The iPod, iTunes & Music Online
The Internet
Internet Radio
James Bond
Kids' Movies
Lord of the Rings
Muhammed Ali
Man Utd
Personal Computers
Pregnancy & Birth
Shakespeare
Superheroes
Unexplained Phenomena
The Universe
Videogaming
Weather
Website Directory

Also! More than 120 Rough Guide music CDs are available from all good book and record stores. Listen in at www.worldmusic.net

ROUGH GUIDE MAPS

Printed on waterproof and rip-proof Polyart™ paper, offering an unbeatable combination of practicality, clarity of design and amazing value.



CITY MAPS

Amsterdam · Athens · Barcelona · Berlin · Boston · Chicago
Brussels · Dublin · Florence & Siena · Frankfurt · London
Lisbon · Los Angeles · Madrid · Marrakesh · Miami
New York · Paris · Prague · Rome · San Francisco · Toronto
Venice · Washington DC and more...

COUNTRY & REGIONAL MAPS

Algarve · Andalucía · Argentina · Australia · Baja California
Brittany · Crete · Croatia · Cuba · Cyprus · Czech Republic
Dominican Republic · Dubai & UAE Egypt · Greece
Guatemala & Belize · Hong Kong · Iceland · Ireland · Kenya
Mexico · Morocco · New Zealand · Northern Spain · Peru
Portugal · Sicily · South Africa · South India · Sri Lanka
Tenerife · Thailand · Trinidad & Tobago · Tuscany
Yucatán Peninsula and more...

ROUGH GUIDES MUSIC SERIES

Available November 2004

Available August 2004

"Rough Guides cover every genre of music. The books are attractively produced, competitively priced, meticulously researched and interestingly written"
The Bookseller, London

Available from your local bookstore or online at www.roughguides.com

ROUGH GUIDES TRAVEL SERIES

Travel guides to more than 250 destinations from Alaska to Zimbabwe

smooth travel

ROUGH GUIDES REFERENCE SERIES

DON'T JUST TRAVEL!

Don't bury your head in the sand!

Take cover!

with Rough Guide Travel Insurance

**Worldwide cover,
for Rough Guide readers
worldwide**

UK Freefone **0800 015 09 06**
Worldwide **(+44) 1392 314 665**
www.roughguidesinsurance.com

ROUGH GUIDES

ROUGH GUIDES intouch

Absolutely everything you need to plan your trip, stay in touch and share your experiences.
INCLUDES
• Planning tools
• Personal website
• Email account
• Digital photo storage
ROUGH GUIDES
intouch
THE ALL-IN-ONE SOFTWARE PACKAGE FOR TRAVEL COMMUNICATIONS AND PLANNING
ROUGH GUIDES
A NEW CONCEPT IN TRAVEL

ROUGH GUIDES SOFTWARE

Share your adventures on the move

Rough Guides have launched intouch, a new all-in-one software package for planning your trip and staying in touch with people back home before, during and after your travels.

Create an itinerary and budget using on-screen information and maps, and take advantage of the diary to keep family and friends informed of your whereabouts.

The diary can be linked to your mobile phone so that you can send a text message, and intouch will automatically send an email or cheap SMS to those listed on your account.

You can also post photos and diary entries online and then download them to make a journal on your return.

Rough Guides intouch is easy to install and you don't need to take anyting with you – just hit the synchronise button and then use it from any internet cafe in the world.

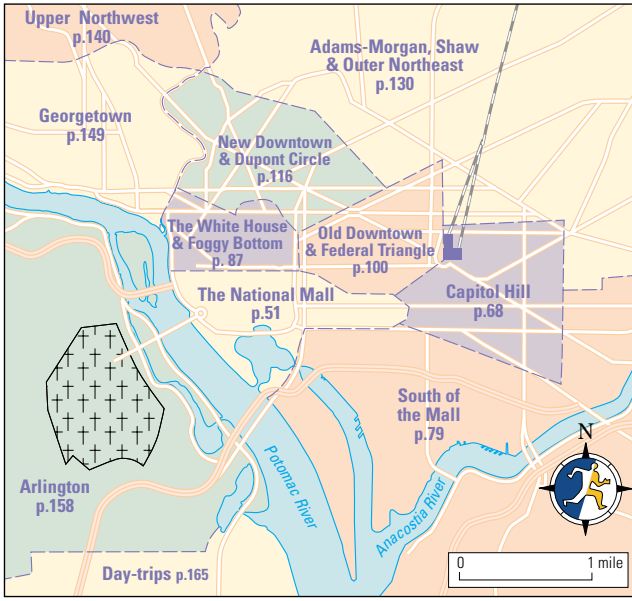
Rough guides Intouch includes:

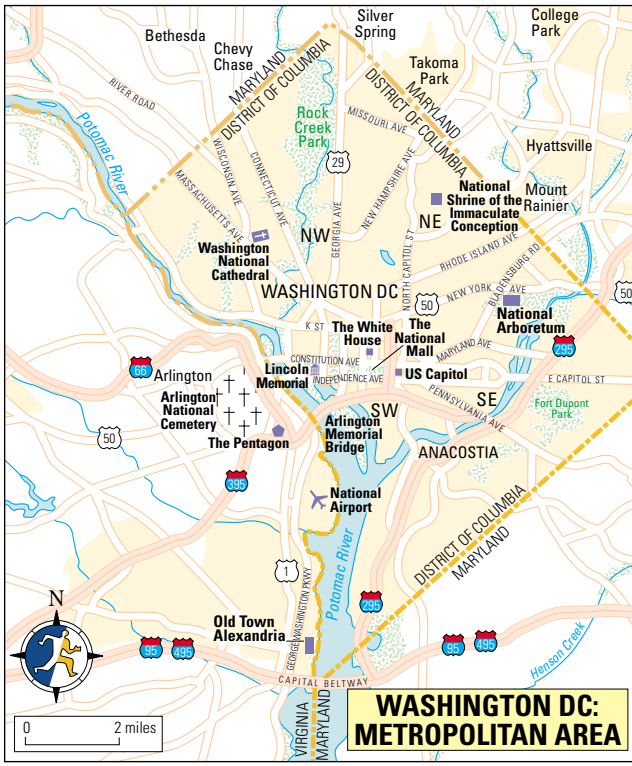
* Planning tools and extensive travel information
* Free email address
* Free personal website
* Digital photo storage and much more...

£5 OFF your purchase of Rough Guides **intouch** if you buy online at www.roughguidesintouch.com reference code: Rough Guide Books

Recommended retail price £24.99 available through leading retailers e.g. WH Smith, Waterstones and PC World

WHSmith W PC WORLD

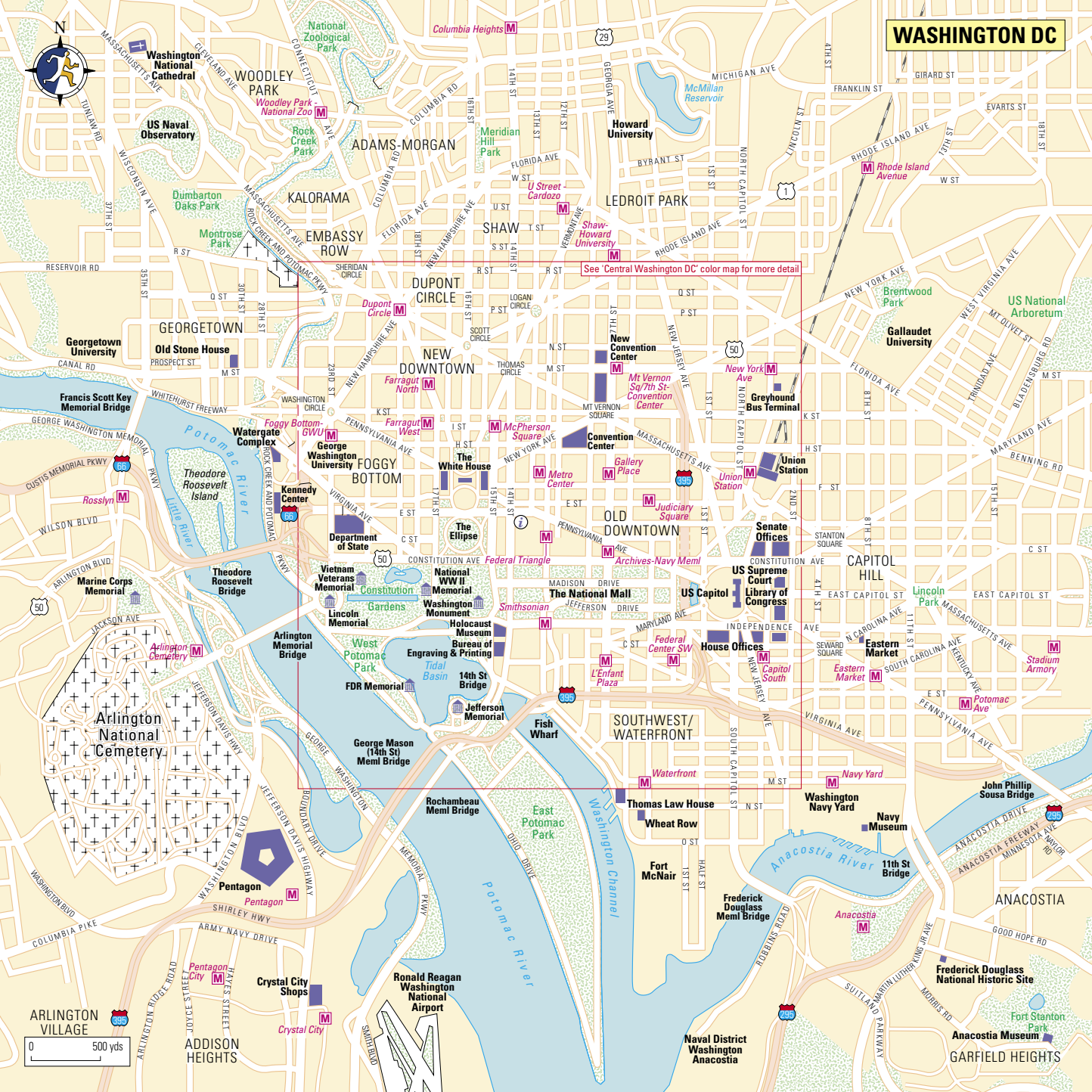


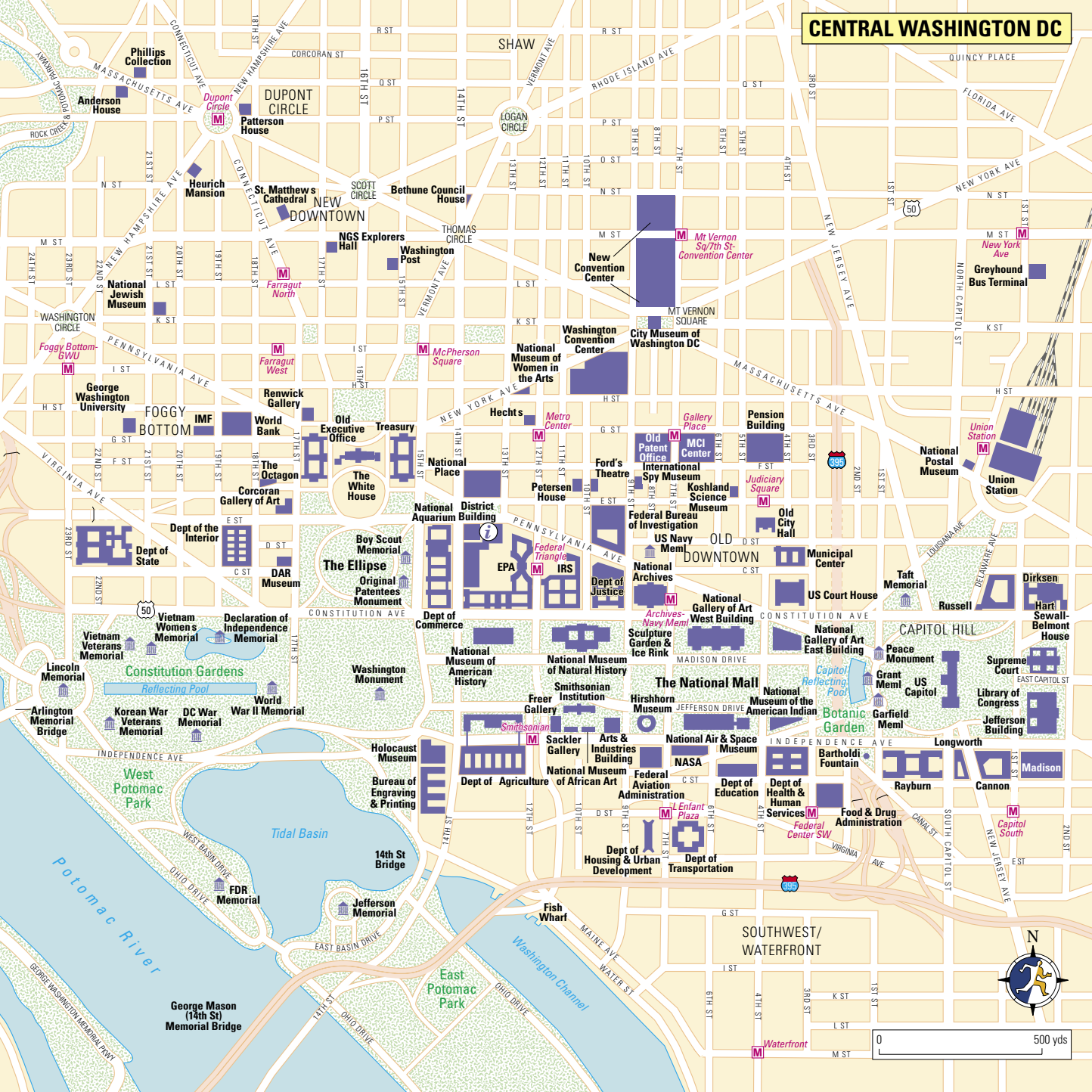


WASHINGTON DC: METROPOLITAN AREA

Mount Vernon & Woodlawn Plantation

THE METRORAIL SYSTEM


WASHINGTON DC
N
Washington National Cathedral
National Zoological Park
Columbia Heights
WOODLEY PARK
Woodley Park - National Zoo
US Naval Observatory
Rock Creek Park
ADAMS-MORGAN
Meridian Hill Park
Howard University
McMillan Reservoir
Dumbarton Oaks Park
KALORAMA
U Street - Cardozo
LEDROIT PARK
Rhode Island Avenue
Montrose Park
EMBASSY ROW
SHAW
Shaw-Howard University
See 'Central Washington DC' color map for more detail
DUPONT CIRCLE
Dupont Circle
Brentwood Park
US National Arboretum
Gallaudet University
GEORGETOWN
Georgetown University
Old Stone House
NEW DOWNTOWN
New Convention Center
Mt Vernon Sq/7th St-Convention Center
New York Ave
Greyhound Bus Terminal
Francis Scott Key Memorial Bridge
Farragut North
Farragut West
McPherson Square
Convention Center
Watergate Complex
George Washington University
FOGGY BOTTOM
The White House
Metro Center
Gallery Place
Union Station
Foggy Bottom-GWU
Theodore Roosevelt Island
Potomac River
Rosslyn
Kennedy Center
Judiciary Square
OLD DOWNTOWN
Senate Offices
Department of State
The Ellipse
Federal Triangle
Archives-Navy Meml
CAPITOL HILL
Theodore Roosevelt Bridge
Marine Corps Memorial
Vietnam Veterans Memorial
National WWII Memorial
US Supreme Court
US Capitol
Library of Congress
Lincoln Memorial
Washington Monument
Smithsonian
The National Mall
Lincoln Park
Arlington Memorial Bridge
Holocaust Museum
Bureau of Engraving & Printing
House Offices
Eastern Market
Arlington Cemetery
West Potomac Park
Tidal Basin
Federal Center SW
Capitol South
L'Enfant Plaza
Stadium Armory
FDR Memorial
14th St Bridge
Jefferson Memorial
Arlington National Cemetery
Fish Wharf
SOUTHWEST/ WATERFRONT
George Mason (14th St) Meml Bridge
Waterfront
Navy Yard
John Phillip Sousa Bridge
Rochambeau Meml Bridge
East Potomac Park
Thomas Law House
Wheat Row
Washington Navy Yard
Navy Museum
Washington Channel
Anacostia River
Fort McNair
11th St Bridge
Pentagon
Frederick Douglass Meml Bridge
ANACOSTIA
Anacostia
Crystal City Shops
Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport
Frederick Douglass National Historic Site
ARLINGTON VILLAGE
Pentagon City
Crystal City
Fort Stanton Park
Anacostia Museum
ADDISON HEIGHTS
Naval District Washington Anacostia
GARFIELD HEIGHTS
0
500 yds


CENTRAL WASHINGTON DC
Phillips Collection
Anderson House
Dupont Circle
Patterson House
DUPONT CIRCLE
SHAW
LOGAN CIRCLE
Heurich Mansion
St. Matthew's Cathedral
SCOTT CIRCLE
NEW DOWNTOWN
Bethune Council House
NGS Explorers Hall
Washington Post
THOMAS CIRCLE
New Convention Center
Mt Vernon Sq/7th St-Convention Center
MT VERNON SQUARE
City Museum of Washington DC
Greyhound Bus Terminal
New York Ave
National Jewish Museum
WASHINGTON CIRCLE
Foggy Bottom-GWU
Farragut North
Farragut West
McPherson Square
National Museum of Women in the Arts
Washington Convention Center
George Washington University
FOGGY BOTTOM
IMF
World Bank
Renwick Gallery
Old Executive Office
Treasury
Hecht's
Metro Center
Gallery Place
Old Patent Office
MCI Center
Pension Building
Union Station
National Postal Museum
The Octagon
Corcoran Gallery of Art
The White House
National Place
Ford's Theatre
International Spy Museum
Koshland Science Museum
Judiciary Square
Petersen House
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Old City Hall
Dept of the Interior
Dept of State
Boy Scout Memorial
The Ellipse
Original Patentees Monument
DAR Museum
National Aquarium
District Building
Federal Triangle
EPA
IRS
Dept of Justice
US Navy Meml
OLD DOWNTOWN
Municipal Center
National Archives
Archives-Navy Memorial
National Gallery of Art West Building
US Court House
Taft Memorial
Russell
Dirksen
Hart
Sewall-Belmont House
CAPITOL HILL
Vietnam Women's Memorial
Declaration of Independence Memorial
Vietnam Veterans Memorial
Lincoln Memorial
Constitution Gardens
Reflecting Pool
Arlington Memorial Bridge
Korean War Veterans Memorial
DC War Memorial
World War II Memorial
Dept of Commerce
National Museum of American History
National Museum of Natural History
Sculpture Garden & Ice Rink
National Gallery of Art East Building
Peace Monument
Grant Meml
US Capitol
Supreme Court
Library of Congress
Jefferson Building
Washington Monument
Smithsonian Institution
The National Mall
Capitol Reflecting Pool
Botanic Garden
Garfield Meml
Freer Gallery
Smithsonian
Hirshhorn Museum
National Museum of the American Indian
Sackler Gallery
Arts & Industries Building
National Air & Space Museum
Bartholdi Fountain
Longworth
Rayburn
Cannon
Madison
Holocaust Museum
Bureau of Engraving & Printing
Dept of Agriculture
National Museum of African Art
Federal Aviation Administration
NASA
Dept of Education
Dept of Health & Human Services
Food & Drug Administration
Federal Center SW
L'Enfant Plaza
Capitol South
Dept of Housing & Urban Development
Dept of Transportation
West Potomac Park
Tidal Basin
14th St Bridge
FDR Memorial
Jefferson Memorial
Potomac River
Fish Wharf
SOUTHWEST/ WATERFRONT
Washington Channel
East Potomac Park
George Mason (14th St) Memorial Bridge
Waterfront
N
0
500 yds

PUBLISHED MAY 2004

1843533146

1843533154

1843533162

1843533170

1843533189

1843533137

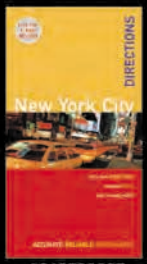
PUBLISHED AUGUST 2004

1843533065

1843533197

1843533200

1843533219



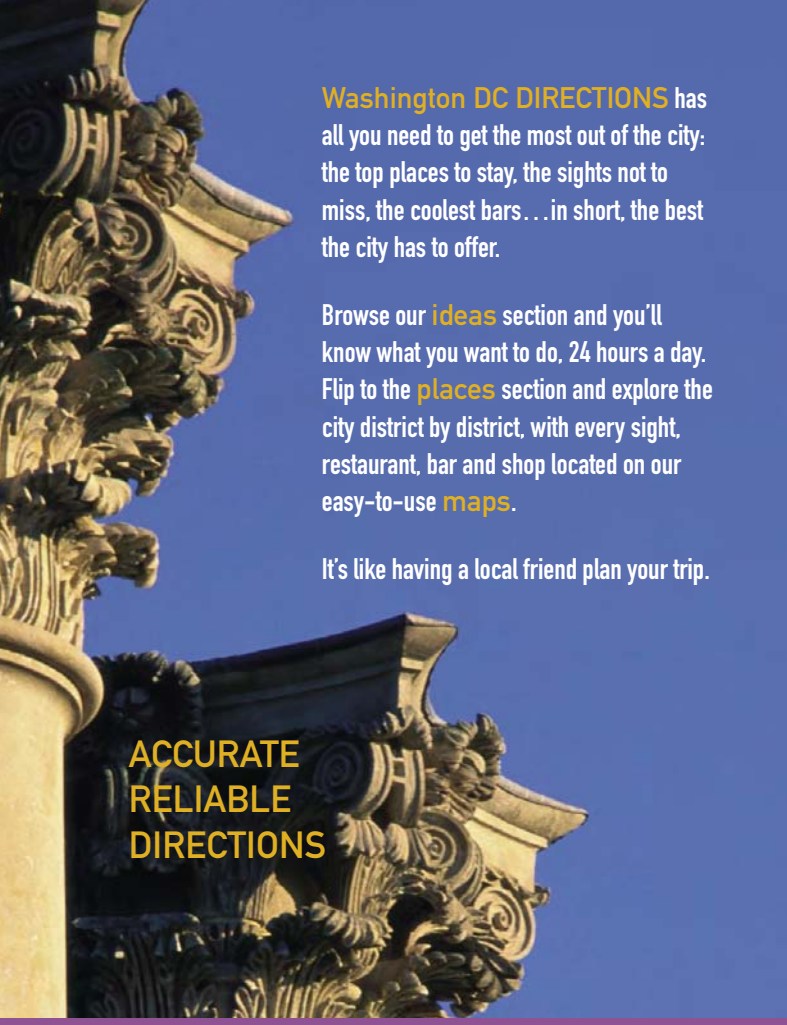
1843533227

1843533235

DIRECTIONS

US$10.99 · Can$15.99 · £6.99

www.roughguides.com



Washington DC DIRECTIONS has all you need to get the most out of the city: the top places to stay, the sights not to miss, the coolest bars…in short, the best the city has to offer.

Browse our ideas section and you'll know what you want to do, 24 hours a day. Flip to the places section and explore the city district by district, with every sight, restaurant, bar and shop located on our easy-to-use maps.

It's like having a local friend plan your trip.

ACCURATE
RELIABLE
DIRECTIONS

FREE e-BOOK CD OUR UNIQUE FREE CD CONTAINS THE FULL TEXT OF THIS GUIDE, COMPLETE WITH 100s OF WEB LINKS. IT IS DESIGNED FOR USE WITH PCs, MACs AND ALL PDAs INCLUDING PALM PILOTS AND POCKET PCs.

DIRECTIONS from ROUGH GUIDES
www.roughguides.com
AOL keyword: Rough Guides

USA $10.99
CAN $15.99
UK £6.99

ISBN 1-84353-394-4